

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
Senate  
Manila City

Fourteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 129

RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE  
RATIFICATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
NATIONS (ASEAN)

WHEREAS, the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was signed on 20 November 2007 in Singapore;

WHEREAS, the ASEAN Charter aims to set principles and purposes to be adhered to by ASEAN Member States in order to: maintain and enhance peace, security and stability and further strengthen peace-oriented values in the region; enhance regional resilience by promoting greater

political, security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation; preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction; create a stable, highly competitive single market and production base; strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law, and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms with due regard to the rights and responsibilities of the member states; respond effectively, in accordance with the principle of comprehensive security, to all forms of threats, transnational crimes and transboundary challenges; promote sustainable development to ensure protection of the region's environment, the sustainability of its natural resources, the preservation of its cultural heritage and the high quality of life of its peoples; promote an ASEAN identity through the fostering of greater awareness of the diverse culture and heritage of the region; and maintain the centrality and proactive role of ASEAN as the primary driving force in its relations and cooperation with its external partners in a regional architecture that it is open, transparent and inclusive;

WHEREAS, the ASEAN Charter confers legal personality on ASEAN as an intergovernmental organization and provides ASEAN such immunities and privileges as may be necessary for the fulfillment of its purpose in the territories of the Member States;

WHEREAS, ASEAN Charter, Chapter 13, Article 47, provides that the Charter shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of ASEAN;

WHEREAS, in the hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on 28 August 2008 concerned agencies, such as the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Interior and Local


Government (DILG), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DA), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCO), representatives from the academe and non-government organizations were present in the hearing;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Human Rights strongly welcomes the creation of a Human Rights body in the Charter. The fact that the Philippine representatives were able to convince the more reluctant and less human rights-oriented governments to agree to this principle and in writing is an achievement;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution, Article 7, Section 21, "No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate of the Philippines concur, as it hereby concurs, in the ratification of the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR  
*President of the Senate*

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on October 7, 2008.

EMMA LIRIO-REYES  
*Secretary of the Senate*

