BILATERAL

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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Your Excellency,

In reference to the "Agreement between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines on the exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic passports" which was jointly signed in Manila on May 23, 1996 and to subsequent consultations between representatives of both Governments during which an agreement has been reached upon exemption of visas for holders of official passports of both countries in order to facilitate their mission.

I would therefore suggest to add " and official passports " to article 1,2 and 3 as follows:

ARTICLE 1

1. Lao citizens holding valid Lao diplomatic passports and official passports, not accredited in the Philippines, shall be exempted from any visa requirement to enter and stay in the territory of the Republic of the Philippines for a period not exceeding 30 days.

2. Philippine citizens holding valid Philippine diplomatic passports and official passports , not accredited in Laos, shall be exempted from any visa requirement to enter and stay in the territory of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for a period not exceeding 30 days.

ARTICLE 2

1. Holders of valid Lao diplomatic passports and official passports travelling to the Philippines to assume their posts of assignment shall be required entry visas and shall be issued multiple-entry visas valid for one year renewable annually for the duration of assignment. This provision shall also apply to their dependents and household members provided they hold diplomatic passports and official passports.

2. Holders of valid Philippine diplomatic passports and official passports travelling to Laos to assume their posts of assignment shall be required entry visas and shall be issued multiple-entry visas valid for one year renewable annually for the duration of assignment. This provision, shall also apply to their dependents and household members provided they hold diplomatic passports and official passports.

ARTICLE 3

1. Representatives of the Lao PDR holding valid diplomatic passports and official passports travelling to the Philippines to assume posts of assignment at international organisations based in the Republic of the Philippines shall be required entry visas.

2. Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines holding valid diplomatic passports and official passports travelling to Laos to assume posts of assignment at international organisations based in Laos shall be required entry visas.

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If the above suggestion is agreeable to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, I would also wish to suggest that this letter and Your Excellency's answer constitutes an amendment to the agreement between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines of May 23, 1 996,

The exemption of visa requirement for official passports shall be effective thirty days from the receipt of Your Excellency's letter.

Please accept the expressions of my highest consideration to Your Excellency.

(Sgd.)SOUBANH SRITHIRATH
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency
MR JAIME J.YAMBAO
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the
Republic of the Philippines,
Vientiane

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