

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON
MARITIME COUNTER-PIRACY TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines herein referred to as the "Participants";

Desiring to promote cooperation between their two countries in the field of training and education of maritime personnel, primarily in counter-piracy training, in protection and advancement of each country's maritime interests;

Emphasizing the importance of promoting a healthy maritime transport sector and its contribution in strengthening trade relations, and in concert with other mechanisms for cooperation between their countries;

Believing that the Participants play an important role in international maritime transportation; and

Intending to create opportunities for cooperation on issues of mutual interest including the areas set out in this Memorandum of Cooperation,

Intend to cooperate as follows:

Section 1

1. The Participants affirm their intent to cooperate jointly in the development of an efficient and safe maritime transport industry. The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation, hereinafter "Memorandum," is to identify maritime personnel training issues of mutual interest to the two governments, and to establish a mechanism through which the two governments can pursue cooperative efforts in those areas.
2. This Memorandum is not intended to create any binding obligations under international law.

Section 2

1. The Participants intend to engage in cooperative bilateral activities and, where appropriate, to cooperate in multilateral activities for the promotion of efficient and safe transport policies and practices and of effective measures in support of their further development.
2. The areas of cooperation under this Memorandum may include strengthening cooperative relationships so as to build institutional capacity to promote the training and education of maritime personnel, with a focus on counter-piracy training, and may draw upon available resources and facilities of the Participants, including the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and maritime personnel training institutions of the Philippines. Areas of cooperation also may include, but are not limited to, the following subjects:
 - Exchanges of information on best practices with respect to the enhancement of vessel security against threats of pirate attacks;
 - Piracy and armed attacks as elements of current security threats and patterns;
 - International conventions, legislation, and regulations concerned with piracy;
 - Execution of response plans for incidents involving attacks by pirates;
 - Drills and exercises that provide practice in responding to acts of piracy or attempted piracy, including those based on lessons learned or experiences of seafarers held as hostages;
 - Exploring possible avenues for exchanges of maritime students and faculty, on mutually accepted terms.

Section 3

1. In conducting this work, the two Participants intend to take into consideration their obligations contained in multilateral conventions addressing maritime transport security matters. Each Participant also expects to solicit, and take fully into account as appropriate, the views of the public, such as labor union training organizations, with respect to implementation of this Memorandum.
2. Each Participant plans to name a Principal Coordinator to serve as a point of contact for cooperative activities under this Memorandum.

Section 4

In implementing the provisions of this Memorandum, the following forms of cooperation may be considered:

- a. Exchange of academics, both students and faculty, industry, and labor personnel including study visits, to promote the development of a robust seafarer labor force;
- b. Organization of joint conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, training sessions and outreach and education programs;
- c. Support for collaboration projects and demonstrations, including joint research projects, studies and reports;
- d. Facilitation of linkages among representatives from academia, industry, and government to promote the exchange of best practices and maritime transport information and data likely to be of interest to the two governments;
- e. Sharing information on national programs subject to the respective government's laws and regulations; and
- f. Such other forms of seafarer cooperation in education as the two governments may deem appropriate.

Section 5

All cooperative activities under this Memorandum are subject to the availability of funds and to the applicable laws and regulations of the two Participants.

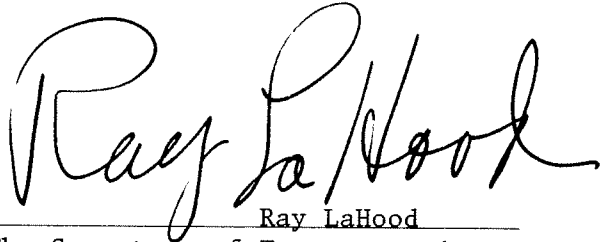
Section 6

The Participants intend that all non-proprietary technical information obtained through the implementation of this Memorandum would be available to both governments to the extent permissible under their respective laws, regulations and other measures.

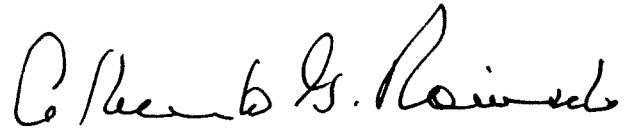
Section 7

1. Cooperation under this Memorandum may commence upon its signature by the Participants. Either Participant may discontinue its cooperation at any time, but should notify the other Participant in writing six months in advance. The two Participants intend to consult to determine the disposition of any cooperative activities not fully completed at the time of such discontinuance.

2. The Participants plan to meet at least biennially to review the status of cooperation under this Memorandum. This Memorandum may be updated and modified in writing at each successive consultation, as appropriate and as mutually determined.



Ray LaHood
The Secretary of Transportation
**For the Government of the
United States of America**



Alberto Gatmaitan Romulo
The Secretary of Foreign Affairs
**For the Government of the
Republic of the Philippines**

Signed in Washington, D.C. on July 31, 2009.