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ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements: THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE

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ASEAN

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, **Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations.**

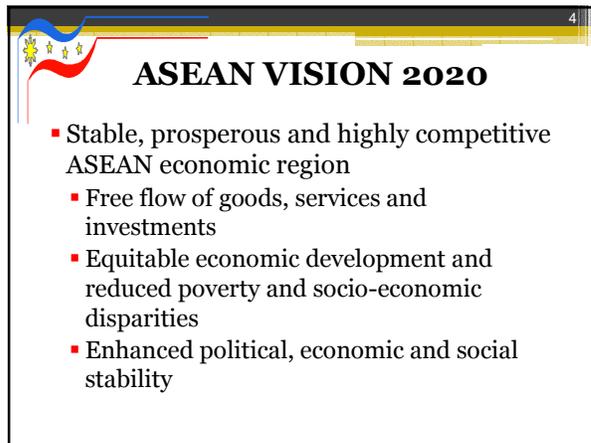
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ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON SERVICES

- Enhance cooperation in services
- Eliminate restrictions to trade in services
- Liberalize trade in services

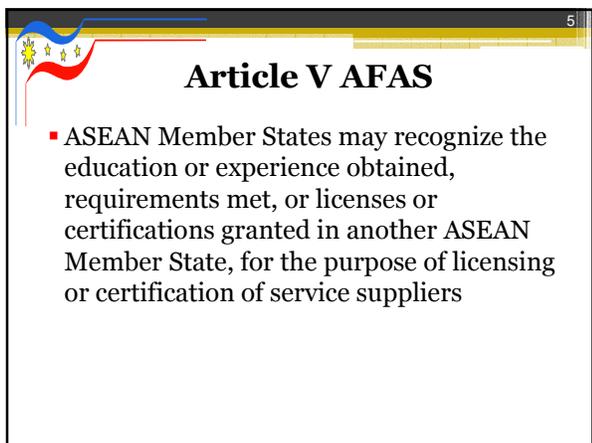
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ASEAN VISION 2020

- Stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN economic region
 - Free flow of goods, services and investments
 - Equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities
 - Enhanced political, economic and social stability

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Article V AFAS

- ASEAN Member States may recognize the education or experience obtained, requirements met, or licenses or certifications granted in another ASEAN Member State, for the purpose of licensing or certification of service suppliers

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9th ASEAN Summit

- Bali Concord II: calling for the adoption of **MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS** for qualifications in major professional services by 2008

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Mutual Recognition Arrangements

- Goal:
 - Facilitate trade in services by mutual recognition of authorization, licensing, or certification of professional service suppliers
- Objectives:
 - Facilitate mobility of health professionals within the ASEAN
 - Exchange information and enhance cooperation in respect of mutual recognition of health professionals
 - Promote adoption of best practices on standards and qualifications
 - Provide opportunities for capacity building and training of health professionals

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MRAs under the Healthcare Sector Services

- Medical Practice
 - Signed on 26 February 2009
- Dental Practice
 - Signed 26 February 2009
- Nursing Services
 - Signed 08 December 2006

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PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION

- Crafting of the MRAs
 - MRA on Nursing Practice: 2003 – 2006
 - MRAs on Medical and Dental Practice: 2007 – 2008
- Participation in the harmonization process
- Advocacy of the MRAs to health professional country leaders and the private sector

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PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION

- Signing of the MRAs
- Ratification of the MRAs
- Submission to the ASEAN Secretariat of country specific
 - Competency requirements
 - Qualification for job placements
 - Accreditation of training institutions
 - Existing laws for the practice of the profession

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2010 ACTIVITIES

- Development of WEBSITE for the ASEAN Healthcare Sector Services Working Group
 - ASEAN Nurse
 - ASEAN Physician
 - ASEAN Dentist
- Organization of the required structure for implementation of the MRAs
 - ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committees
 - Philippine Regulatory Authorities

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2010 ACTIVITIES

- Identification of areas of practice where flow of ASEAN professionals could happen
- Aligning the ongoing Residency Training of ASEAN Medical graduates in the Philippines with provisions in the MRA (e.g. Indonesia)
- Monitoring and reporting of inflow of ASEAN Professionals under the MRA framework

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CHALLENGES

- Reluctance on the MRAs
- Non-familiarity with the MRAs
- Lack of budgetary support by lead stakeholders
- Domestic laws and regulations not updated to support MRAs
- Collaboration amongst both public and private sector not yet institutionalized

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ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements: *THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE*

THANK YOU

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