MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) on the
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE NETWORK (IHAN)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and among:

The Department of National Defense, a government agency with principal office address at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City and represented herein by Secretary and NDCC Chairman Avelino J. Cruz, Jr., hereinafter referred to as DND;

The Department of Health, a government agency with principal office address at Ground Floor, DOH Building, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila and represented herein by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, hereinafter referred to as DOH;

The Department of Transportation and Communications, a government agency with principal office address at 17th Floor, Room 177, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City and represented herein by Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza, hereinafter referred to as DOTC;

The Department of Justice, a government agency with principal office address at DOJ Building, Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila and represented herein by Secretary Raul M. Gonzales, hereinafter referred to as DOJ;

The Department of Finance, a government agency with principal office address at 6th Floor, DOF Building, Vito Cruz corner Roxas Boulevard, Manila and represented herein by Secretary Margarito B Teves, hereinafter referred to as DOF;

and

The Department of Foreign Affairs, a government agency with principal office address at 11th Floor, ADB Building, Roxas Boulevard, Manila and represented herein by Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, hereinafter referred to as DFA.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, susceptible to almost all types of natural calamities;

WHEREAS, during the past decades, the country experienced major natural and human-made disasters causing enormous losses to human lives and property, destruction of the environment, and setback of economic development;
WHEREAS, in the aftermath of major natural disasters, such as the earthquake in July 1990; the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in June 1991; and the landslide tragedies in the REINA (Real, Infanta and General Nakar) areas in Quezon in 2004 and in St. Bernard, Brgy. Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte in February 2006, the government received numerous offers of emergency assistance from the international community;

WHEREAS, recent natural disaster events in other parts of the world, such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004 and the earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005, have demonstrated the importance of an organized and systematic management of international humanitarian assistance, particularly the accommodation of search and rescue and disaster relief teams;

NOW THEREFORE, in view of the foregoing premises and to facilitate foreign assistance in the event of disasters or major emergencies, the Parties hereto have agreed to implement the Project International Humanitarian Assistance Network based on the following terms and conditions:

ARTICLE I
OBJECTIVE

The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding is to define the responsibilities of government agencies concerned and to establish an efficient system, with well-defined procedures and arrangements for the entry and processing of international relief teams, and accompanying equipment and supplies, if the Philippines is affected by a disaster or major emergency.

ARTICLE II
COVERAGE

This MOU shall govern the entry, processing and accommodation of international relief teams, their equipment and supplies, under the following conditions; 1) occurrence of a disaster or major emergency; 2) requirements in the disaster areas are beyond the coping capacity of the national government; 3) a call for international assistance has been made; and, 4) a state of calamity has been declared by the President of the Philippines or the concerned Local Chief Executive.

ARTICLE III
TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. DND through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD):
   a. Conduct rapid damage and needs assessment as basis of the call for international assistance, if the situation warrants.
   b. Provide office space and basic requirement for operations coordination with the international community at the National Disaster Management Center.
c. Secure in advance the names and other personal data of team members and capacity - together with the list/specifications of possible equipment/supplies that their teams may bring, and coordinate with the Bureaus of Immigration and Customs to facilitate clearance upon their arrival at any international airport.

d. Accredit the foreign disaster relief teams and provide them with their identification cards that will allow immediate entry into the country for humanitarian reasons.

e. Coordinate the provision of appropriate aircraft for the international search and rescue/disaster relief teams to reach the site of the emergency.

2. DOH

a. Facilitate entry of medical teams, supplies and equipment needed in the disaster-affected area.

b. Assist foreign medical teams find their temporary lodging in the disaster-affected area.

c. Designate local counterpart medical and trauma teams to accompany the international teams, if necessary.

d. Facilitate issuance of special permit to foreign medical teams by the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) for temporary practice of medicine for the duration of their stay in the Philippines.

3. DOTC

a. Through the Air Transportation Office (ATO), Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) and other international airports in the country, facilitate or cause the facilitation of the entrance and clearance of relief teams and their equipment/supplies needed in the course of their mission.

b. Through all the transport agencies under the DOTC, in coordination with the Office of Civil Defense, facilitate the transport of the relief teams and their supplies/equipment from the airport of entry to the disaster or emergency site.

c. In coordination with the concerned local government in the affected areas, facilitate movement of disaster relief teams to and from the area of deployment.

4. DOJ through the Bureau of Immigration (BI):

a. Facilitate the entry of duly accredited international experts and personnel to provide humanitarian assistance in disaster-stricken areas provided that these persons are with distinctive identification while performing official duties and are not included in the Philippine Bureau of Immigration Watchlist/Blacklist.
b. Designate specific areas for Immigration Officers at its International Airports to allow the immediate entry of specialist teams provided that the relief operations in case of emergency or disaster must be under the control and supervision of their team leaders/respective Embassies.

c. Validate identification cards of international support teams as against the advance list of members submitted to DND-OCD.

d. Prior notice and advice on the arrival of the aircraft/sea craft, specifications, name and composition of the relief team and capacity be provided to BOI in advance as this will guide the Bureau to comply with the inspection and waiver requirements in expeditious manner.

5. **DOF through the Bureau of Customs (BOC):**

a. Facilitate entry and release of NDCC-accredited supplies and equipment needed for relief operations. For this purpose, all customs duties and taxes, including Value-Added Tax accruing thereto, are deemed automatically appropriated as revenue and expenditure of the government pursuant to the General Provisions of the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

b. Designate a point person at each international airport/seaport to facilitate clearance of equipment and supplies of international relief teams.

6. **DFA**

a. Coordinate issuance of entry/exit clearances for foreign state aircraft(s) and vessel(s) used for the transport of foreign experts or consultants.

b. Facilitate and negotiate cooperation agreements with foreign countries concerning deployment of experts in the event of natural disaster or major emergencies.

c. Designate a focal point to assist in facilitating the entry and exits of international search and rescue and other relief teams.

**ARTICLE IV**

**IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES**

The Parties hereof shall develop implementing guidelines to carry out their respective tasks and responsibilities under this MOU, within thirty (30) days from signing thereof.

**ARTICLE V**

**EFFECTIVITY**

The Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect immediately upon signing by all Parties and shall remain in force until revoked, amended or rescinded by the concerned parties and/or by higher authorities, subject to a written notice given thirty (30) days in advance.
IN WITNESS HEREOF, the Parties have hereunto caused their signatures to be affixed this 15th day of February 2007, in Quezon City, Philippines.

Hon. Avelino J. Cruz, Jr.
Secretary, DND and NDCC Chairman

Hon. Francisco T. Duque III
Secretary, DOH

Hon. Leandro R. Mendoza
Secretary, DOTC

Hon. Raul M. Gonzalez
Secretary, DOJ

Hon. Margarito B. Teves
Secretary, DOF

Hon. Alberto G. Romulo
Secretary, DFA

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

Glenn J. Rabonza
Administrator, OCD and Executive Officer, NDCC

Dr. Carmencita Banatin
Chief, HEMS-DOH

Nilo C. Jatico
Assistant Secretary, ATO-DOTC

Aladin G. Villacorte
Assistant Secretary, UNIO-DFA

Napoleon L. Morales
Commissioner, Bureau of Customs, BOC-DOF

Alipio F. Fernandez
Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration, BOI-DOJ