

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
PHILIPPINE ACADEMIC CONSORTIUM
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (PACLAS)**

The **Ateneo de Manila University** (ADMU), the **De La Salle University** (DLSU), the **Foreign Service Institute** (FSI), the **Philippine Institute for Development Studies** (PIDS), the **University of Asia and the Pacific** (UA&P), the **University of the Philippines** (UP) and the **University of Santo Tomas** (UST), hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

COGNIZANT of the importance of the centuries-old relations between the Philippines and the Latin American region, both sharing a common historical and cultural heritage;

RECOGNIZING the vastness, dynamism and diversity of Latin America with its more than 400 million inhabitants;

AWARE of the value of the Spanish language and culture as an indispensable tool in improving understanding and appreciation of Latin America in all its aspects as well as the Philippines's own historical and cultural heritage, and the potential for enhanced cooperation in this regard;

DESIROUS of the promotion of academic cooperation in the field of Latin American studies and their positive contribution to the study of Philippine historical and cultural heritage, as well the promotion of the Spanish language, with counterpart institutions in the Philippines and abroad;

WILLING to contribute to the revitalization of Philippine relations with Latin America in the context of a shared historical and cultural past towards more dynamic partnership in, *inter alia*, the political, economic and cultural fields;

REAFFIRMING the Parties' resolve to develop and further enhance friendly relations and cooperation for mutual benefit;

SEEKING the achievement of these objectives through the creation of a network of academic and research institutions and facilities, thereby further fostering mutual confidence and cooperation in a wide spectrum of endeavors;

COMMITTED to realizing the potential benefits of contributing to and enhancing the work in multilateral fora, including the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) as well as in academic networks in Latin America, Asia and other regions;

Have agreed, as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties hereby establish the Philippine Academic Consortium for Latin American Studies (PACLAS), which shall review, coordinate and exchange views on all efforts to promote and enhance Latin American studies in the Philippines.

ARTICLE 2

a. The Parties agree to maximize resources and opportunities by actively coordinating and cooperating in all relevant projects thereby maximizing the benefits of academic activities.

b. The Consortium shall establish, revitalize and consolidate participation in direct academic agreements with counterpart institutions in Latin America. It may also participate in existing cultural and educational agreements that the Philippines may have with Latin American countries.

c. The Consortium shall share information and materials, and cooperate on projects with similar consortia or centers for Latin American studies all over the world.

d. The Consortium shall establish a mechanism for joint research facilities, resource centers and materials, including books, journals, CD-Roms and documents.

e. The Consortium shall organize and coordinate the periodic holding of a *Semana Cultural Latinoamericana* (Latin American Cultural Week) in collaboration with relevant diplomatic missions and honorary consulates, as well as other groups and entities; when a series of lectures, symposia and events could promote the rich diversity of the Latin American region.

ARTICLE 3

Consortium meetings shall be conducted in the spirit of flexibility and cooperation. The modalities for the meetings, including the determination of dates, venue, agenda, and level of representation, shall be determined by consensus.

ARTICLE 4

a. On the basis of consensus, one of the Consortium member institutions shall be selected as the Consortium Chair, which shall serve for a term of two (2) years. A Deputy Chair, to serve for a term of two (2) years, may also be selected by consensus.

b. The Consortium may set up working groups or convene expert meetings in order to discuss specific areas.

ARTICLE 5

New members may be admitted into the Consortium through the recommendation of a Consortium member and with the unanimous assent of the Consortium's members.

ARTICLE 6

This MOU may be amended upon mutual agreement of all the Consortium member institutions.

ARTICLE 7

The present MOU shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force unless all of the Parties terminate it in writing with six (6) months prior notice.

ARTICLE 8

The termination or suspension of the present MOU shall not affect the execution or duration of any arrangement or project undertaken under the present MOU until the completion of such arrangement or project.

Signed in the City of Pasay on this 20th day of November, 2002.

For the Ateneo de Manila University

*For the Foreign Service
Institute*

BIENVENIDO F. NEBRES, S.J.
President

ROMUALDO A. ONG
Director

For the De La Salle University

*For the Philippine Institute for
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ROLANDO R. DIZON, FSC
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JOSE MARIA A. MARIANO, Ph. D.
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FRANCISCO NEMENZO, Ph. D.
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For the University of Santo Tomas

TAMERLANE R. LANA, O.P.
Rector