

2024 PROTOCOL TO AMEND THE ASEAN AGREEMENT ON THE MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS

Signed in Manila, the Philippines on 7 March 2024

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of 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 Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Member States" or singularly as "Member State");

NOTING the mandate of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit held on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that facilitating movement of skilled labour and business visitors is one of the key elements of a highly integrated and cohesive economy characteristic of the ASEAN Economic Community, and includes the strategic measure to expand and deepen commitments under the ASEAN Agreement on the Movement of Natural Persons (hereinafter referred to as "MNP Agreement") where appropriate;

RECALLING the MNP Agreement signed on 19 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which seeks to facilitate the movement of natural persons engaged in the conduct of trade in goods, trade in services, and investment between Member States;

DESIRING to adopt a common format for the Schedules of Commitments (SOCs) under the MNP Agreement which is easier for the general public to understand, reflecting ASEAN's commitment to work towards the elimination of restrictions in the temporary cross-border movement of natural persons involved in the provision of trade in goods, trade in services, and investment;

HAVING carried out discussions to review the SOCs under the MNP Agreement as set out by each Member State for the temporary entry or temporary stay in its territory of natural persons of other Member States pursuant to Article 6 (Schedules of Commitments for the Temporary Entry and Temporary Stay of Natural Persons) of the MNP Agreement; and

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Article 15 (Revisions, Modifications and Amendments) of the MNP Agreement that provides for the revision, modification, and amendment of the MNP Agreement;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE 1 AMENDMENT TO ANNEX 1 OF THE MNP AGREEMENT

ANNEX 1 of the MNP Agreement shall be replaced with ANNEX 1 attached to this Protocol.

ARTICLE 1 AMENDMENT TO ANNEX 1 OF THE MNP AGREEMENT

1. This Protocol shall enter into force 90 days after the date of signature of this Protocol.
2. Member States shall complete their internal procedures of the entry into force of this Protocol. Each Member State shall, upon the completion of its internal procedures for the entry into force of this Protocol, notify the Secretary-General of ASEAN in writing.

3. Where a Member State is unable to notify the completion of its internal procedures within 90 days of the date of signature, the rights and obligations of that Member State under this Protocol shall commence on the date on which that Member State notifies the completion of its internal procedures.
4. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall promptly notify the Member States of the notifications referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3.
5. This Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each Member State.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Agreement on the Movement of Natural Persons.

DONE at Manila, Philippines, this Seventh Day of March in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, in a single original copy in the English Language.