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SENATE  
S. No. 967

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT  
CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC  
STUDIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Asia Pacific is in a trajectory of imploring economic dynamism, integration, and competitiveness worldwide. Major economies like China and India are constantly on the rise, and growing markets like Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan are also rapidly growing economically. Southeast Asian countries are also joining forces for economic integration.

Tensions in the South China Sea are starting to escalate. Tracing decades-long conflict amongst states in the East Asian region, this conflict represents myriad of strategic interests competing in the region. Such interests have grown from the mere national interest of states in defending their sovereignty claims to securing an economic future through access to energy resources and trade routes. The problem has become even more complex with the rebalance of the United States in Asia in the light of a growing Chinese power.

Domestically, the Philippines is beset by continuing insurgencies. These threaten peace and political stability of the country.

To promote understanding of fundamental, current and emerging domestic and international issues, this bill seeks to create and establish the Institute for Strategic Studies. The creation of this organization will assist the government in formulating policy and strategic perspectives and shall conduct research on pressing issues on national and international concerns.

In view of the foregoing considerations, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Institute for Strategic  
2 Studies Act of 2019.”

3           Sec. 2. *Establishment of the Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS).* – The Institute  
4 for Strategic Studies, hereinafter referred to as the Organization is hereby created and  
5 established as an institution to promote understanding of fundamental, current and  
6 emerging domestic and international issues and to assist the government in  
7 formulating policy and strategic perspectives on those issues. It shall conduct research  
8 on fundamental national concerns in response to or in anticipation of the needs of  
9 policy-making, conduct studies on matters of domestic and international political,  
10 economic, military, socio-cultural and techno-scientific significance in an  
11 interdisciplinary and integrative manner; identify strategies to serve the ends of policy,  
12 design programs to effect coordinated and integrated work of other research institutes  
13 engaged in strategic studies, undertake commissioned research work in collaboration  
14 with outside entities/ institutions consistent with its mandate; build and maintain a  
15 resource facility and data bank; and carry out such other activities and projects as  
16 shall enhance the mission of the organization.



1           Sec. 3. *Powers of the Organization.* – The Organization shall have the following  
2 powers:

- 3           a) Adopt, alter and use a corporate seal;
- 4           b) Take and hold by bequest, devise, gift, purchase or lease, either and  
5           absolutely or in trust, for any of its purposes, any property, real or personal,  
6           without limitation as to amount or value, to convey such property and to  
7           invest and reinvest any principal of the said Organization in such manner as  
8           shall best promote its objectives;
- 9           c) Collect, receive and maintain a fund or funds and to apply the income and  
10          principal thereof to the promotion of its aims and purposes hereinbefore set  
11          out;
- 12          d) Contact any obligation or enter into any agreement necessary or incidental  
13          to the proper management of its corporate powers;
- 14          e) Engage in any activity, and exercise all the powers conferred by the laws  
15          upon private or government-owned and controlled corporations; and
- 16          f) Exercise the general powers of a duly incorporated entity as set out in the  
17          corporate code.

18          Sec. 4. *The Board of Trustees.* – The Organization shall be organized  
19 functionally with the following components:

- 20          1. There shall be a Board of Trustees composed of the Executive Secretary,  
21          Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretary of  
22          Foreign Affairs, Secretary of National Defense, Secretary of Science and  
23          Technology, President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry,  
24          an eminent representative form the private sector to be appointed by the  
25          President of the Republic of the Philippines and the President of the  
26          Organization;
- 27          2. The Trustees shall elect from among themselves the Chairman and Vice  
28          Chairman of the Board;
- 29          3. The Board of Trustees coming from the private sector may create an  
30          executive committee of five trustees including its Chairperson, which shall  
31          have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board of Trustees in

1 between the regular meetings of the said board. The Chair of the Board  
2 shall head the executive committee. Decisions of the Executive Committee  
3 shall be reported to the Board of Trustees at its meeting.

4 4. The trustees shall receive a per diem as may be authorized for every  
5 meeting actually attended, in addition to reasonable transportation and  
6 representation expenses.

7 5. The Board shall provide guidance to the Policy Council on the thrusts,  
8 objectives, policies, research, agenda, programs and other activities of the  
9 organization.

10 Sec. 5. *Policy Council.* – There shall be a Policy Council, composed of an  
11 Executive Director and five others as Members, all of whom shall be appointed by the  
12 President of Republic of the Philippines from among the present members of the  
13 Strategic Studies Group of the National Defense College of the Philippines, as presently  
14 constituted, for a term of six (6) years. The Council shall have the following authority:

15 1. To formulate the thrusts, objectives, policies, research agenda, programs  
16 and other activities;

17 2. To oversee, monitor and evaluate all research work and studies;

18 3. To designate Research Fellows with notable scholarship to do and/or direct  
19 research work and strategic studies in various functional area program of  
20 the organization that are relevant to their areas of expertise;

21 4. To determine and fill up other positions in the Organization and fix the  
22 salaries, honoraria, allowance, and other emoluments of all organizations

23 Sec. 6. *Autonomy and Academic Freedom of the Organization.* – The  
24 Organization shall be an autonomous and self-governing institution governed by the  
25 principle of academic freedom; it shall neither be organic nor be part of any  
26 government instrumentality. It shall be attached to the Office of the President to  
27 facilitate its budgetary and other administrative requirements and for the purpose of  
28 policy coordination.

29 Sec. 7. *Assistance from Government Departments and Agencies.* – To assist  
30 in its functions, government departments, agencies, units or instrumentalities shall



1 allow the Organization access to their official files, records, data and other documents,  
2 provided such access is consistent with the requirements of confidentiality.

3       *Sec. 8. Exemptions.* – Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary,  
4 appointments to the research and administrative staff of the Organization may be on  
5 a full-time basis and shall be exempt from the requirements and restrictions of the  
6 Civil Service and retirement laws, other laws, rules and regulations on position-  
7 classification and salary standardization and Section Two Hundred Fifty Nine (259) of  
8 the Revised Administrative Code; *Provided*, that any government retiree employed in  
9 the Organization shall not be required to reimburse or refund any gratuity received  
10 from the government nor shall any pension or annuity to which he is entitled be  
11 suspended or reduced on account of his employment in the Organization.

12       *Sec. 9. Services of Outside Agencies and of Private Sector* – The Organization  
13 may, for the purpose of research, field work and other activities, obtain and pay for  
14 the services of the personnel of any agency of the Philippine Government and/or  
15 private sector to perform research of field work and such other activities as may be  
16 needed.

17       *Sec. 10. Endowment Fund.* –

- 18       1. An Endowment Fund shall be created to provide for non-recurring  
19 expenditures of the Organization. For this purpose, the amount of Five  
20 Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from any  
21 funds in the National Treasury. The Endowment Fund shall be administered  
22 as a trust fund with the Board of Trustees thereof, provided that the  
23 principal of said endowment shall not be subject to impairment and  
24 provided further that the earnings thereof, shall constitute a trust fund  
25 available for non-recurring and unprogrammed expenditures of the  
26 Organization.
- 27       2. Any or all savings of the Organization shall form part of the trust funds  
28 provided in Section 9, above.

29       *Sec. 11. Appropriation* – There is hereby appropriated the amount of five  
30 hundred million pesos (P500,000,000.00) out of any unappropriated funds in the

1 National Treasury for such initial requirements as capital outlay and infrastructure of  
2 the Organization. Thereafter, the Congress of the Philippines shall include as part of  
3 its budgetary appropriations the amount of at least fifty million pesos  
4 (P50,000,000.00) to finance the recurring and operational expenditures of the  
5 Organization.

6           Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
7 proclamations, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this  
8 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9           Sec. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of  
10 this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other section or provision, not  
11 otherwise affected shall remain valid.

12           Sec. 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from  
13 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
14 circulation.

15  
16           *Approved,*