


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 AUG -5 P6:05

SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 555

RECEIVED BY: 

Prepared by the Committees on Foreign Relations; and Trade and Commerce

**“RESOLUTION
CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE JAPAN-PHILIPPINES
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (JPEPA)”**

WHEREAS, on 9 September 2006, the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) was signed by Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, and by His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi, then Prime Minister of Japan, in Helsinki, Finland;

WHEREAS, on 22 August 2007, President Arroyo transmitted the JPEPA (here attached as Annex A) to the Senate of the Republic of the Philippines for its concurrence as required by the Philippine Constitution, Article 7, Section 21;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has enjoyed a long and mutually-beneficial relationship with Japan in the economic, political, scientific and cultural fields;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate is cognizant of the need to develop economic opportunities for Filipinos and to promote and develop new forms of economic engagement with the Philippines' most important trading partners, including Japan;

WHEREAS, the Committees on Foreign Relations; and Trade and Commerce jointly conducted nine (9) hearings on the following dates with their respective topics of discussion:

14 September 2007	-	Trade and Investment
20 September 2007	-	Economics
27 September 2007	-	Environmental Effects
4 October 2007	-	Movement of Natural Persons
8 October 2007	-	Movement of Goods and Services and Constitutional Issues
8 November 2007	-	Trade in Goods: Agriculture and Industry and Other Matters
23 November 2007	-	Trade in Goods: Agriculture and Industry
13 December 2007	-	Trade in Agricultural Goods
20 December 2007	-	Trade in Agricultural Goods Trade in Industrial Goods and Other Matters

WHEREAS, all concerned government agencies, non-government organizations (NGO's), representatives from the industry sector, academe and trade experts and other stakeholders were invited to the committee hearings and were given the opportunity to present their position papers;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Trade and Commerce prepared a joint report entitled: "Joint Committee Report on the JPEPA Part 1: Constitutional Aspects"; and "Part 2: Trade and Services Aspects," both recommending concurrence in the JPEPA;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution, Article 7, Section 21, "No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the members of the Senate";

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Senate of the Philippines concur, as it hereby concurs, in the ratification of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA)".

Adopted,



MAR ROXAS

Chair

Committee on Trade and Commerce



MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Chair

Committee on Foreign Relations

Annex A: Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement