

馬尼拉經濟文化辦事處
MANILA ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE
(PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN TAIWAN)

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Our Ref.: MM13-05
May 14, 2013

H.E. DAVID LIN
Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Taipei City
Taiwan, ROC

Sir

In the interest of preserving the mutually beneficial relations between the people of the Philippines and of Taiwan and of upholding the common belief in mutual respect, the rule of law and the sanctity of human life, I respectfully convey to your Excellency that the Philippine government has taken the following actions with respect to your note with Ref No. Wai Tai Ya 10213524640 dated May 12, 2013, to wit:

1. That MECO Chairman Amadeo R. Perez, Jr. will convey the Filipino people's deep regret and apology to the family of Mr. Hung Shi-chen as well as to the people of Taiwan over the unfortunate loss of life in the course of a fisheries law enforcement operation on May 9, 2013 by a Philippine Coast Guard/Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources maritime patrol in waters in the northern Philippines;
2. That the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will lead a thorough, exhaustive, impartial and expeditious investigation of the incident. In connection with the ongoing investigation, MECO and TECO have made arrangements for coordination between your investigation and ours, if so requested, under the provisions of the agreement to facilitate mutual legal assistance we signed last month; and
3. That all relevant agencies are instructed immediately to convene for the purpose of finding ways to prevent such unfortunate incidents from occurring in the future with the view to convening a meeting with their counterparts as soon as possible.

May I also inform your Excellency that MECO Chairman Perez and Director Manuel E. Dimaculangan will be arriving on Wednesday to call on your Excellency for the aforementioned reason. They will also visit the widow of Mr. Hong Shih-chen to personally extend condolence and apology and to turn over donations received from commiserating citizens of the Philippines to the family in an outpouring of sympathy for their loss.

We understand the grief and hurt of the family and of the people of Taiwan over this unfortunate loss and we wish to reassure you that this is an isolated event that does not diminish the high regard and respect of the people of the Philippines for your people.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio I. Basilio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ANTONIO I. BASILIO

Managing Director and Resident Representative