



PRESS RELEASE

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Signing of the Arrangement between the Secretary of National Defense of the Philippines and the Minister of Defence of the French Republic related to Defense Cooperation

Philippines, France work on Defense Cooperation



Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin and Ambassador Thierry Mathou (left) sign the Arrangement.

Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin and Ambassador Thierry Mathou finally signed on May 11, 2016, the Arrangement between the Secretary of National Defense of the Philippines and the Minister of Defence of the French Republic related to Defense Cooperation, which would serve as framework of defense cooperation for the Philippines and France. The two countries have been negotiating the said defense arrangement since 2014.

Under this framework, both countries agreed to focus their cooperation on high-level dialogues and defense policy consultations, visits of defense and armed forces authorities, education and training exchanges and cooperation in the fields of defense equipment, logistics and the defense industry.

“Our relationship would be further enhanced as we institutionalize our cooperation through this Agreement,” Secretary Gazmin said during the signing ceremony.

The conclusion of the Philippines-France Defense Arrangement is very timely given the increasing defense and security challenges both countries are confronted with. The cooperation provided for in the agreement could enhance the two countries’ defense capacities and capabilities essential in addressing such challenges.

Furthermore, this would enable France and the Philippines to cooperate in various regional security concerns to include Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR), maritime security and counter-terrorism among others.

Both countries look forward to the initiatives that would be implemented in accordance with the said defense arrangement.

“Now that the Agreement has been signed, we could start working on its implementation. I am optimistic that we would be able to draw up a tangible cooperation pursuant to this Agreement in the near future,” Secretary Gazmin concluded.

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