

Joint Statement  
RP-PRC Consultations on the South China Sea  
and on Other Areas of Cooperation  
9-10 August 1995

Delegations from the Philippines and China met in Manila on 9-10 August 1995 for consultations on the South China Sea and on other areas of cooperation.

The consultations were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and in a frank and constructive manner.

The two sides reiterated the importance they attach to their bilateral relations. They recognized that the continued prosperity of their economies depends upon the peace and stability of the region. They reaffirmed their commitment to regional peace, stability and cooperation.

Frank discussions on Mischief Reef ("Meiji Reef") were held. The two sides expressed their respective positions on the matter. They agreed to hold further consultations in order to resolve their differences. On the South China Sea issue as a whole, they exchanged views on the legal and historical bases of their respective positions.

Pending the resolution of the dispute, the two sides agreed to abide by the following principles for a code of conduct in the area:

1. Territorial disputes between the two sides should not affect the normal development of their relations. Disputes shall be settled in a peaceful and friendly manner through consultations on the basis of equality and mutual respect.
2. Efforts must be undertaken to build confidence and trust between the two parties, to enhance an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region, and to refrain from using force or threat of force to resolve disputes.
3. In the spirit of expanding common ground and narrowing differences, a gradual and progressive process of cooperation shall be adopted with a view to eventually negotiating a settlement of the bilateral disputes.
4. The two sides agree to settle their bilateral disputes in accordance with the recognized principles of international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
5. Both sides shall keep an open-minded attitude on the constructive initiatives and proposals of regional states to pursue multilateral cooperation in the South China Sea