

SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 708

12 FEB -8 10:41

Prepared by the Committee on Foreign Relations

RP: [Signature]

**RESOLUTION  
CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LIVING AQUATIC RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT (ICLARM) TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF THE  
WORLD FISH CENTER IN THE PHILIPPINES**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution, Article VII, Section 21, states that, "*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*";

**WHEREAS**, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) to establish an Office of the WorldFish Center in the Philippines was signed on 22 April 2008 at Pasay City;

**WHEREAS**, the Agreement provides for the establishment of the WorldFish Center Office in the Philippines to - undertake activities for research and development of aquatic and maritime resources in the Philippines and nearby regions; enter into contracts; acquire and dispose of its properties; receive gifts and donations; hold funds; and conduct research, training and other programs in accordance with its mandate;

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of the Center has tremendous potential for the Philippines meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on poverty reduction and hunger elimination with its projects focused on small-scale fisheries practice and aquaculture that will contribute to improving nutrition and raising incomes in rural areas, as well as enhance biodiversity information systems that will provide the scientific basis for projects involving natural resources management and aquaculture; and environmental conservation which is considered as key to fighting poverty, food security and overall economic development;

**WHEREAS**, under the Agreement, the office shall enjoy the immunities and privileges accorded to an international organization of a universal character such as immunity from penal, civil and administrative proceedings and exemption from customs, visa and immigration requirements;

**WHEREAS**, Article VIII, Section 38 of the Agreement provides that *it shall enter into force on the date that the Government notifies the center, through diplomatic channels, that the Government has complied with its internal requirements for such entry into force*;

**WHEREAS**, the President of the Philippines has ratified the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) to Establish an Office of the Worldfish Center in the Philippines, and has accordingly submitted it to the Senate for concurrence;

**WHEREAS**, in the hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on 2 February 2012, the following government agencies and non-government organizations endorsed the concurrence in the ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) to establish the Office of the WorldFish Center in the Philippines:

1. Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
2. Department of Agriculture (DA);
3. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
4. National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI);
5. Bureau of Customs (BOC);
6. Bureau of Immigration (BI);
7. Conservation International-Philippines; and
8. FishBase Information and Research Group, Inc.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Senate of the Philippines concur, as it hereby concurs, in the ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) to Establish the Office of the WorldFish Center in the Philippines.

*Adopted,*



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
*Chair*