ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND GERMANY

THESIS

PATRICIA ANN M. CARRILLO

College of Economics, Management and Development Studies

CAVITE STATE UNIVERSITY Indang, Cavite

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ABSTRACT

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This study was conducted to: (1) identify and discuss the economic cooperation agreements between the Philippines and Germany; (2) describe the status of current cooperation between the Philippines and Germany based on the following factors: total merchandise exports, total merchandise imports, foreign direct investments, tourist arrivals, overseas workers' employment, overseas workers' salary remittances; and (3) determine the policy implication to improve economic relations of the Philippines with Germany.

Descriptive analysis was used to present the data between the Philippines and the Germany. Secondary data were gathered from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Tourism and also from the official websites of German embassy. The data gathered covered the years 1998 to 2012.

The Philippines and Germany had five economic cooperation agreements. The highest amount of export from Germany to the Philippines reached to 1,974,256 US dollar thousand in year 2012 and the highest number of imports to Germany from the Philippines reached to 2,988,672 US dollar thousand in year 2012. The highest source of investment in year 2012 was the industry of manufacturing with 1,437.4 million pesos. Based on the statistics of German tourist arrivals from the Department of Tourism, the highest number of tourist arrival was in year 2012 with 67,023 tourist arrivals.

The number of deployed landbased overseas Filipino workers in Germany (new hires and rehires) had its peak in 1998 with 156 OFWs, the highest number of OFW from year 1998-2010. It dropped from 156 to 89 OFWs in year 2002. Meanwhile, OFW remittances from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, from year 1998-2010, dropped to the lowest remittance amounting to 59,995 US dollar thousand in 2001 because of the unemployment issue in Germany. On the other hand, there was a consistent increase of remittance from 2002-2012 because Germany had won back its place as the driving force in the European economy. Global demographic trends favored the Philippines.

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Patricia Ann M. Carrillo

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INTRODUCTION

Economic cooperation between countries is cooperation in the economic field, bilateral, regional and international levels. It covers several fields, such as exports and imports of goods and services, lending and borrowing of capital and payments, and acceptance services. It is the reducing barriers to trade and international investment and pursuing means to encourage economic growth (United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 2008).

The Philippine economy has been growing steadily over decades and the International Monetary Fund in 2011 reported it as the 45th largest economy in the world. However, its growth has been behind that of many of its Asian neighbors, the so-called Asian Tigers, and it is not a part of the Group of 20 nations. Instead it is often grouped in a second tier of emerging markets or of newly industrialized countries.