

# **AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS**

The Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Republic of Albania, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties;

Desiring to expand and deepen economic and industrial cooperation on a long term basis, and in particular, to create favourable conditions for investments by investors of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party;

Recognizing the need to protect investments by investors of both Contracting Parties and to stimulate the flow of investments and individual business initiative with a view to the economic prosperity of both Contracting Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

## **Article 1. Definitions**

1. For the purpose of this Agreement:

(a) "investments" mean every kind of asset and in particular, although not exclusively, includes:

(i) Movable and immovable property and any other property rights such as mortgages, liens and pledges and similar rights;

(ii) Shares, stocks and debentures of companies or interests in the property of such companies;

(iii) A claim to money or a claim to any performance having financial value;

(iv) Intellectual and industrial property rights, including rights with respect to copyrights, patents, trademarks, tradenames, industrial designs, trade secrets, technical processes and know-how and goodwill;

v) business concessions conferred by law or under contract, including concessions to search for, cultivate, extract, or exploit natural resources;

(b) "returns" means the amount yielded by an investment and in particular, though not exclusively, includes profit, interest, capital gains, dividends, royalties or fees,

(c) investor means:

(i) any natural person possessing the citizenship of or permanently residing in a Contracting Party or in accordance with its laws; or

(ii) Any corporation, partnership, trust, joint-venture, organisation, association or enterprise incorporated or duly constituted in accordance with applicable laws of that Contracting Party;

(d) "territory" means:

(i) with respect to Malaysia, all land territory comprising the Federation of Malaysia, the territorial sea, its bed and subsoil and airspace above;

(ii) with respect to Albania, it means the territory, the territorial sea and the subsoil of the Republic of Albania as well as the continental shelves over which the Republic of Albania in accordance with international law exercises sovereign rights or jurisdiction.

(e) "freely usable currency" means the United States Dollar, Pound Sterling, Deutschmark, French Franc, Japanese Yen or any other currency that is widely used to make payments for international transactions and widely traded in the international

principal exchange markets.

2. (i) The term "investments" referred to in paragraph 1(a) shall only refer to all investments that are made in accordance with the laws, regulations and national policies of the Contracting Parties.

(ii) Any alteration of the form in which assets are invested shall not affect their classification as investments, provided that such alteration is not contrary to the approval, if any, granted in respect of the assets originally invested.

## **Article 2. Promotion and Protection of Investments**

1. Each Contracting Party shall encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of the other Contracting Party to invest capital in its territory and subject to its rights to exercise powers conferred by its laws, regulations and national policies, shall admit such investments.

2. Investments of investors of either Contracting Party shall at all time be accorded fair and equitable treatment and shall enjoy full protection and security in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

3. Returns from the investment and, in cases of approved reinvestments, the income ensuing therefore enjoy the same protection as the original investments.

## **Article 3. Most-favoured-nation Provisions**

1. Investments made by investors of either Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party shall receive treatment which is fair and equitable, and not less favourable than that accorded to investments made by investors of any third State.

2. Each Contracting Party shall in its territory accord to investors of the other Contracting Party, as regards management, maintenance, use, enjoyment or disposal of their investment, treatment which is fair and equitable and not less favourable than that which it accords to investors of any third State.

3. The provision of this Agreement relative to the granting of treatment not less favourable than that accorded to the investors of any third State shall not be construed so as to oblige one Contracting Party to extend to the investors of the other the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege resulting from:

(a) any existing or future customs union or free trade area or a common market or a monetary union or similar international agreement or other forms of regional cooperation to which either of the Contracting Parties is or may become a party; or the adoption of an agreement designed to lead to the formation or extension of such a union or area within a reasonable length of time; or

(b) any international agreement or arrangement relating wholly or mainly to taxation or any domestic legislation relating wholly or mainly to taxation.

## **Article 4. Compensation for Losses**

1. When investments by investors of either Contracting Party suffer losses owing to war, armed conflict, a state of national emergency, revolt, insurrection, riot or other similar events in the territory of the other Contracting Party, they shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement, not less favourable than that which the latter Contracting Party accords to investors of any third State.

2. Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this Article, investors of one Contracting Party who in any of the events referred to in that paragraph suffer losses in the territory of the other Contracting Party resulting from:

(a) requisitioning of their property by its armed forces or authorities;

(b) destruction of their property by its armed forces or authorities which was not caused in combat action or was not required by the necessity of the situation;

Shall be accorded just and adequate compensation for the losses sustained during the period of the requisitioning or as a result of the destruction of the property. Resulting payments shall be freely transferable in a freely usable currency without delay.

## **Article 5. Expropriation**

1. Neither Contracting Party shall take any measures of expropriation, nationalization or any other dispossession, having effect equivalent to nationalization or expropriation against the investments of an investor of the other Contracting Party except under the following conditions:

(a) The measures are taken for a lawful purpose and under due process of law;

(b) The measures are non discriminatory;

(c) The measures are accompanied by provisions for the payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation. Such compensation shall amount to the market value of the investments affected immediately before the measure of dispossession became public knowledge, and it shall be freely transferable in freely usable currencies from the Contracting Party. Any unreasonable delay in payment of compensation shall carry an appropriate interest at commercially reasonable rate as agreed upon by both parties or at such rate as prescribed by law.

2. The investor affected shall have a right, to prompt review, by a judicial or other independent authority of that Contracting Party, of his or its case and of the valuation of his or its investment in accordance with the principles set out in this Article.

## **Article 6. Repatriation of Investment**

1. Each Contracting Party shall, subject to its laws, regulations and national policies allow without unreasonable delay the transfer in any freely usable currency:

(a) the net profits, dividends, royalties, technical assistance and technical fees, interest and other current income, accruing from any investment of the investors of the other Contracting Party;

(b) The proceeds from the total or partial liquidation of any investment made by investors of the other Contracting Party;

(c) Funds in repayment of borrowings/loans given by investors of the other Contracting Party which both Contracting Parties have recognised as investment; and

(d) The earnings and other compensation of investors of the other Contracting Party who are employed and allowed to work in connection with an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. The exchange rates applicable to such transfer in the paragraph 1 of this Article shall be the rate of exchange prevailing at the time of remittance.

3. The Contracting Parties undertake to accord to the transfers referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article a treatment as favourable as that accorded to the transfer originating from investments made by investors of any third State.

## **Article 7. Settlement of Investment Disputes between a Contracting Party and an Investor of the other Contracting Party**

1. Any dispute which may arise between an investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party in connection with an investment in the territory of that other Contracting Party shall be subject to negotiations between the parties in dispute.

2. If any dispute between an investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party cannot be thus settled within a period of six months, the investor shall be entitled to submit the case either to:

(a) The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) having regard to the applicable provisions of the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States opened for signature at Washington D.C. on 18 March 1965, in the event both Contracting Parties shall have become a party to this Convention; or

(b) An arbitrator or international ad hoc arbitral tribunal established under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The Parties to the dispute may agree in writing to modify these Rules. The arbitral awards shall be final and binding on both Parties to the dispute.

3. Neither Contracting Party shall pursue through diplomatic channels any matter referred to arbitration until the proceedings have terminated or a Contracting Party has failed to abide by or comply with the award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal.

## **Article 8. Settlement of Disputes between the Contracting Parties**

1. Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement should, if possible, be settled through diplomatic channels.
2. If a dispute between the Contracting Parties cannot thus be settled, within six months, it shall upon the request of either Contracting Party be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.
3. Such an arbitral tribunal shall be constituted for each individual case in the following way. Within two months of the receipt of the request for arbitration, each Contracting Party shall appoint one member of the tribunal. Those two members shall then select a national of a third State who on approval by the two Contracting Parties shall be appointed Chairman of the tribunal. The Chairman shall be appointed within three months from the date of appointment of the other two members.
4. If within the periods specified in paragraph 3 of this Article the necessary appointments have not been made, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to make any necessary appointments. If the President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-President shall be invited to make the necessary appointments. If the Vice-President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he too is prevented from discharging the said function, the members of the International Court of Justice next in seniority who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments.
5. The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority of votes. Such decision shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its own member of the tribunal and of its representation in the arbitral proceedings; the cost of the Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the Contracting Parties. The tribunal may, however, in its decision direct that a higher proportion of costs shall be borne by one of the two Contracting Parties, and this award shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. The tribunal shall determine its own procedure.

## **Article 9. Subrogation**

1. If a Contracting Party or its designated agency makes payment to its own investors under a guarantee it has accorded in respect of an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party, the latter Contracting Party shall recognize:
  - (a) the assignment, whether under the law or pursuant to a legal transaction in that country, of any right claim by the investor to the former Contracting Party or its designated agency, as well as,
  - (b) That the former Contracting Party or its designated agency is entitled by the virtue of subrogation to exercise the rights and enforce the claims of that investor and shall assume the obligations related to the investment.
2. The subrogated rights or claims shall not exceed the original rights or claims of the investor.

## **Article 10. Application to Investments**

This Agreement shall apply to investments made in the territory of either Contracting Party in accordance with its legislation, rules or regulations by investors of the other Contracting Party prior to as well as after the entry into force of this Agreement. However the provisions of this Agreement shall not apply to any dispute, claim or difference which arose before its entry into force.

## **Article 11. Application of other Rules and Special Commitments**

1. Where a matter is governed simultaneously both by this Agreement and by another international agreement to which both Contracting Parties are parties, nothing in this Agreement shall prevent either Contracting Party or any of its investors who own investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party from taking advantage of whichever rules are more favourable to his case.
2. If the treatment to be accorded by one Contracting Party to investors of the other Contracting Party in accordance with its laws and regulations or other specific provisions of contracts is more favourable than that accorded by the Agreement, the more favourable shall be accorded.

## **Article 12. Entry Into Force, Duration and Termination**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the later date on which the Governments of the Contracting Parties have notified each other that their constitutional requirement for the entry into force of this Agreement have been

fulfilled. The later date shall refer to the date on which the last notification letter is sent.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten (10) years, and shall continue in force, unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article.

3. Either Contracting Party may by giving one (1) year's written notice to the other Contracting Party, terminate this Agreement at the end of the initial ten (10) year period or anytime thereafter.

4. With respect to investments made or acquired prior to the date of termination of this Agreement, the provisions of all the other Articles of this Agreement shall continue to be effective for a period of ten (10) years from such date of termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this 24th day of January 1994, in Bahasa Malaysia, Albania and English Languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA