Visit to the Philippines of Minister Han, Minkoo
Ministry of National Defense of Korea and Delegation

Secretary Gazmin Welcomes ROK Defense Minister

During a bilateral meeting between Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Defense Minister of the Republic of Korea Han, Minkoo, who is on official visit to the Philippines, both defense leaders manifested their continued support to the further enhancement of its defense relations through the expansion of exchanges at the senior defense and military levels. To promote more relevant and practical cooperation towards the goal of establishing a strategic partnership, the PH Department of National Defense and ROK Ministry of National Defense will explore the need for the establishment of an annual Defense Policy Consultation at the vice-ministerial level.

Secretary Gazmin personally extended his appreciation, in behalf of the direct beneficiaries of Leyte, who benefited from the one-year deployment of the ROK Army’s Araw Unit that extended assistance in the rehabilitation of Palo, Tanauan and Tolosa in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in 2013.

Minister Han, on the other hand, committed the support of Korean defense industries in the Modernization Program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Today marks another milestone in the history of PH-ROK defense relations as the defense ministers signed the Agreement on the Protection of Classified Military Information that will enable the systematic exchange of information of significant developments in the region. This Agreement will enable the Philippines to be better apprised of the latest developments in the Korean Peninsula, if any hostilities arise. Safety and repatriation of Filipinos residing in ROK will be PH’s paramount concern when such contingency erupts between the two Koreas.

Also discussed during the bilateral meeting were the regional security situation both in Northeast and Southeast Asia.

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