

**Manila Economic and Cultural Office Statement
May 10, 2013, Taipei**

With regards to the incident of May 9 2013 between one Taiwanese fishing boat with markings QUANG TA SHIN 28 and registration number CT2-6519 and a joint patrol of the Philippine Coast Guard and Bureau of Fisheries vessel during which the Taiwanese vessel was fired upon and resulting in the death of crew member Hung Shih-cheng, the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) makes this statement:

Our authorities are investigating the incident and circumstances that led to such tragic outcome and will issue a report shortly. Regardless of the circumstances that led to the shooting, no words can express our sorrow at the loss of a precious life. We would like to express our sincerest condolences and apologies to the family of Mr. Hong for their loss.

We welcome participation by relevant Taiwan authorities to determine the exact nature of the incident - including its location and the circumstances that led to the shooting. Should the investigation show that there has been wrong doing on the part of any individual involved, they will be punished by the full extent of the law.

We cherish very much the friendly and historic relations between the people of the Philippines and Taiwan and we will not allow such incident to harm those relations.

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