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clt

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Organización
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para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
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Commission CLT

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

Submitted by: **PHILIPPINES**

**Commemoration of the galleon trade between the Philippines and Mexico
through the proclamation of a “Día del Galeón” (Day of the Galleon)**

The General Conference,

Recalling 34 C/Resolution 46,

Having examined document 35 C/COM.CLT/DR.1 relating to the proclamation of a Día del Galeón (Galleon Day),

Noting that for 250 years (1565-1815), the Manila-Acapulco galleons linked Asia with America, Europe and as far as Africa and served not only as carriers of trade but transmitters of cultures as well,

Convinced that it is fitting to commemorate the beginnings of world trade and cross-cultural contacts, especially in the light of the declaration of 2010 as “International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures” under A/RES/62/90, which highlights the links among and diversity of cultures,

Noting that the proclamation of a Día del Galeón (Galleon Day) will not have any additional financial implications for the regular budget of UNESCO for 2010-2011,

1. *Proclaims* 8 October every year as Día del Galeón (Galleon Day);
2. *Invites* the Director-General to encourage and support all initiatives which will be taken in this regard at the national, regional and international levels.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. For almost 250 years commerce through the waters of the Pacific Ocean linked Asia with America, Europe and as far as Africa. Merchandise from various parts of Asia such as porcelain jars and vases, spices, textiles (silk, linen, and cotton), fans, combs, inlaid boxes, tapestries, rugs, handkerchiefs, chests, ivory statues, “drugs” (musk, borax, and camphor), among many others, were brought to Manila where they were loaded aboard large ships called galleons.
2. The galleons left Manila in June and reached Acapulco in Mexico at the end of November or early December. The merchandise was transported over land to Veracruz on Mexico’s Atlantic side for shipment to Europe and Africa. The return voyage started at the end of March and arrived in Manila by late May or early June. On the return trip, the galleons carried office supplies for Manila, rope, saltpetre and lead for the military, and cacao, maize and tobacco, which through the years enriched Philippine flora and cuisine.
3. The galleon trade owes its successful run to the discovery of the “tornaviaje” or the return route, which was made by the Augustinian Fray Andrés de Urdaneta. He was with the expedition led by Miguel López de Legazpi who arrived in the Philippines on 13 February 1565. Since it was extremely necessary to report their arrival in the Philippines, Legazpi instructed his grandson Felipe de Salcedo and Fray Urdaneta to go back to Mexico. Because of his extensive knowledge in the art of navigation, Fray Urdaneta piloted the *San Pedro* and reached Acapulco on 8 October, 1565, thus establishing the route that the Manila-Acapulco galleons would take in the next 250 years.
4. The Manila-Acapulco galleons did not only serve as carriers of trade but transmitters of culture of the peoples wherever galleon merchandise was derived and transported. The trade that the galleons made possible and the culture that they disseminated made possible the linkage of peoples of Asia, America, Europe and Africa despite the wide ocean that physically separated them.
5. In view of the declaration of 2010 as Year of the Rapprochement of Cultures (33 C/Resolution 46), which focuses on intensifying the linkages and dialogue between cultures and civilizations, the recognition of the contribution of the galleon trade to the establishment of linkages between the cultures and peoples of Asia, America, Europe and Africa is especially fitting.
6. Accordingly it is proposed that 8 October of each year be declared as Día del Galeón or Galleon Day.