

30 July 2014

**Corporate Governance and Finance Department** Securities and Exchange and Commission SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

| Attention: | Atty. Justina F. Callangan<br>Director |  |
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Re:

## **Revised Manual on Corporate Governance**

Gentlemen:

Please be informed that the Board of Directors of Alliance Global Group, Inc. (the "Corporation") in its meeting held on 25 July 2014 passed a resolution approving the adoption of a Revised Manual on Corporate Governance following the directive of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") to incorporate in the Corporation's Manual of Corporate Governance the mandatory provisions in the Revised Code of Good Governance contained in SEC Memorandum Circular No. 6, Series of 2009 and as further amended by SEC Memorandum Circular No.9, Series of 2014.

Attached is the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance for reference.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

DOMINIC V. ISBERTO Corporate Secretary

Alliance Global Group, Inc.

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#### MANUAL OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Revised pursuant to <u>SEC Memorandum Circular No. 6, Series of 2009 and as</u> <u>amended by SEC Memorandum Circular No. 9, Series of 2014.)</u>

The Board of Directors of Alliance Global Group, Inc. (the "Corporation") is committed to the principles and best practices contained in this Manual of Corporate Governance, and shall be guided by the same in the pursuit of corporate goals.

# 1. DEFINITION OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Corporate governance is the framework of rules, systems and processes in the corporation that governs the performance of the Board of Directors and Management of their respective duties and responsibilities to stockholders and other stakeholders which include, among others, customers, employees, suppliers, financiers, government and community in which it operates.

## 2. COMMITMENT TO GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors seeks to institutionalize the principles of good corporate governance in the entire organization.

The Board of Directors believes that corporate governance is a necessary component of sound strategic business management and is committed to create awareness of the principles of good corporate governance within the organization.

# 3. COMPLIANCE SYSTEM

## 3.1 **Compliance Officer**

The Board shall appoint a Compliance Officer who shall report directly to the Chairman of the Board. The Compliance Officer shall have the rank of at least vice president.

The Compliance Officer shall perform the following duties:

- Monitor compliance by the Corporation with this Manual, the Revised Code of Corporate Governance and the rules and regulations of regulatory agencies and, if any violations are found, report the matter to the Board and recommend the imposition of appropriate disciplinary action on the responsible parties and the adoption of measures to prevent a repetition of the violation;
- Appear before the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") when summoned in relation to compliance

with this Manual and the Revised Code of Corporate Governance; and

• Such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

# 3.2. Board of Directors

## 3.2.1 Responsibility for Governance

The Board of Directors is primarily responsible for the governance of the Corporation. Corollary to setting the policies for the accomplishment of corporate goals, it shall provide an independent check on Management.

# 3.2.2 Composition of the Board

The Board shall be composed of seven (7) members with at least two (2) independent directors, who are elected by the stockholders.

The membership of the Board may be a combination of executive and non-executive directors (which include independent directors) in order that no director or small group of directors can dominate the decision-making process. The non-executive directors should possess such qualifications and stature that would enable them to effectively participate in the deliberations of the Board.

# 3.2.3 Qualifications of Directors

The Directors shall have such qualifications prescribed in the Corporation Code, the Securities Regulation Code and other relevant laws, as well as any of the following additional qualifications:

- A college degree;
- Business experience;
- $\circ\,$  Practical understanding of the business of the Corporation; or
- o Membership in good standing in a relevant industry, business or professional organization;

# 3.2.4 Disqualifications of Directors

Any of the following shall be a ground for **permanent disqualification** of a director:

- Any person convicted by final judgment or order by a competent judicial or administrative body of any crime that (a) involves the purchase or sale of securities, as defined in the Securities Regulation Code: (b) arises out of the person's conduct as an underwriter, broker, dealer, investment adviser, principal, distributor, mutual fund dealer, futures commission merchant, commodity trading advisor, or floor broker; or (c) arises out of his fiduciary relationship with a bank, quasi-bank, trust company, investment house or as an affiliated person of any of them;
- Any person who, by reason of misconduct, after hearing, is permanently enjoined by a final judgment or order of the Commission or any court or administrative body of competent jurisdiction from:

   (a) acting as underwriter, broker, dealer, investment adviser, principal distributor, mutual fund dealer, futures commission merchant, commodity trading advisor, or floor broker;
   (b) acting as director or officer of a bank, quasi-bank, trust company; investment house, or investment company;
   (c) engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice in any of the capacities mentioned in sub-paragraphs
   (a) above, or willfully violating the laws that govern securities and banking activities.

The disqualification shall also apply if such person is currently the subject of an order of the Commission or any court or administrative body denying, revoking or suspending any registration, license or permit issued to him under the Corporation Code, Securities Regulation Code or any other law administered by the Commission or Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), or under any rule or regulation issued by the Commission or BSP, or has otherwise been restrained to engage in any activity involving securities and banking; or such person is currently the subject of an effective order of a self-regulatory organization suspending or expelling him from membership, participation or association with a member or participant of the organization;

 Any person convicted by final judgment or order by a competent judicial or administrative body of an offense involving moral turpitude, fraud, embezzlement, theft, estafa, counterfeiting, misappropriation, forgery, bribery, false affirmation, perjury or other fraudulent act or transgression;

- Any person who has been adjudged by final judgment or order of the Commission or a court or other competent administrative body to have willfully violated, or willfully aided, abetted, counseled, induced or procured the violation of, any provision of the Securities Regulation Code, the Corporation Code, or any other law administered by the Commission or Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, or any rule, regulation or order of the Commission or Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas;
- Any independent director who becomes an officer, employee or consultant of the Corporation shall cease to be an independent director until such time that his disqualification is lifted pursuant to the Securities Regulation Code and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
- Any person judicially declared to be insolvent;
- Any person finally found guilty by a foreign court or equivalent financial regulatory authority of acts, violations or misconduct similar to any of the acts, violations or misconduct listed in the foregoing paragraphs; and
- Conviction by final judgment of an offense punishable by imprisonment for a period exceeding six (6) years, or a violation of the Corporation Code, committed within five (5) years prior to the date of his election or appointment.

Any of the following shall be a ground for the **temporary disqualification** of a director:

- Refusal to comply with the disclosure requirements of the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. This disqualification shall be in effect as long as his refusal persists;
- $\circ$  Absence in more than fifty percent (50%) of all meetings, both regular and special, of the Board during his incumbency, or any twelve (12) month period during said incumbency, unless the absence is due to justifiable causes such as, illness, death in the immediate family serious accident. or This disgualification applies for purposes of the succeeding election;

- Dismissal or termination for cause from directorship in another corporation. This disqualification shall be in effect until he has cleared himself of any involvement in the cause that gave rise to his dismissal or termination;
- If the beneficial equity ownership of an independent director in the Corporation or its subsidiaries and affiliates exceeds two percent of its subscribed capital stock, he shall cease to be an independent director. The disqualification shall be lifted if the limit is later complied with; or
- Conviction referred to in the grounds for the permanent disqualification of directors that has not yet become final.

A temporarily disqualified director shall, within sixty (60) business days from such disqualification, take the appropriate action to remedy or correct the disqualification. If he fails or refuses to do so for unjustified reasons, the disqualification shall become permanent.

# 3.2.5 General Responsibility

It shall be the Board's responsibility to foster the long-term success of the Corporation, and to sustain its competitiveness in a manner consistent with its corporate objectives and the best interests of its stockholders and other stakeholders.

The Board should formulate the Corporation's vision, mission, strategic objectives, policies and procedures that shall guide its activities, including the means to effectively monitor Management's performance.

# 3.2.6 Duties and Functions

To ensure a high standard of best practice for the Corporation, <u>its</u> <u>stockholders and other stakeholders</u>, the Board should conduct itself with honesty and integrity in the performance of, among others, the following duties and functions:

a) Implement a process for the selection of directors who can add value and contribute independent judgment to the formulation of sound corporate strategies and policies. Appoint competent, professional, honest and highly-motivated management officers. Adopt an effective succession planning program for Management. b) Provide sound strategic policies and guidelines to the Corporation on major capital expenditures. Establish programs that can sustain its long-term viability and strength. Periodically evaluate and monitor the implementation of such policies and strategies, including the business plans, operating budgets and Management's overall performance.

c) Ensure the Corporation's faithful compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and best business practices.

d) Establish and maintain an investor relations program that will keep the stockholders informed of important developments in the Corporation.

e) Identify the <u>Corporation's stakeholders</u> in the community in which the Corporation operates or are directly affected by its operations, and formulate a clear policy of accurate, timely and effective communication with them.

f) Adopt a system of check and balance within the Board. A regular review of the effectiveness of such system should be conducted to ensure the integrity of the decision-making and reporting processes at all times. There should be a continuing review of the Corporation's internal control system in order to maintain its adequacy and effectiveness.

g) Identify key risk areas and performance indicators and monitor these factors with due diligence to enable the Corporation to anticipate and prepare for possible threats to its operational and financial viability.

h) Formulate and implement policies and procedures that would ensure the integrity and transparency of related party transactions between and among the Corporation and its parent company, joint ventures, subsidiaries, associates, affiliates, major stockholders, officers and directors, including their spouses, children and dependent siblings and parents, and of interlocking director relationships by members of the Board.

i) Constitute an Audit Committee and such other committees it deems necessary to assist the Board in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

j) Establish and maintain an alternative dispute resolution system in the Corporation that can amicably settle conflicts or differences between the Corporation and its stockholders, and the Corporation and third parties, including the regulatory authorities. k) Meet at such times or frequency as may be needed. The minutes of such meetings should be duly recorded. Independent views during Board meetings should be encouraged and given due consideration.

l) Keep the activities and decisions of the Board within its authority under the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, and in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

m) Appoint the Compliance Officer referred to in Section 3.1 hereof.

#### 3.2.7 Norms of Conduct

A director's office is one of trust and confidence. A director should act in the best interest of the Corporation in a manner characterized by transparency, accountability and fairness. He should also exercise leadership, prudence and integrity in directing the Corporation towards sustained progress.

A director should observe the following norms of conduct:

(i) Conduct fair business transactions with the Corporation, and ensure that his personal interest does not conflict with the interests of the Corporation.

The basic principle to be observed is that a director should not use his position to profit or gain some benefit or advantage for himself and/or his related interests. He should avoid situations that may compromise his impartiality. If an actual or potential conflict of interest may arise on the part of a director, he should fully and immediately disclose it and should not participate in the decision-making process. A director who has a continuing material conflict of interest should seriously consider resigning from his position. A conflict of interest shall be considered material if the director's personal or business interest is antagonistic to that of the Corporation, or stands to acquire or gain financial advantage at the expense of the Corporation.

# (ii) Devote the time and attention necessary to properly and effectively perform his duties and responsibilities.

A director should devote sufficient time to familiarize himself with the Corporation's business. He should be constantly aware of and knowledgeable with the Corporation's operations to enable him to meaningfully contribute to the Board's work. He should attend and actively participate in Board and committee meetings, review meeting materials and, if called for, ask questions or seek explanation. (iii) Act judiciously.

Before deciding on any matter brought before the Board, a director should carefully evaluate the issues and, if necessary, make inquiries and request clarification.

# (iv) Exercise independent judgment.

A director should view each problem or situation objectively. If a disagreement with other directors arises, he should carefully evaluate and explain his position. He should not be afraid to take an unpopular position. Corollarilly, he should support plans and ideas that he thinks are beneficial to the Corporation.

(v) Have a working knowledge of the statutory and regulatory requirements that affect the Corporation, including its articles of incorporation and by-laws, the rules and regulations of the Commission and, where applicable, the requirements of relevant regulatory agencies.

A director should also keep abreast with industry developments and business trends in order to promote the Corporation's competitiveness.

# (vi) Observe confidentiality.

A director should keep secure and confidential all non-public information he may acquire or learn by reason of his position as director. He should not reveal confidential information to unauthorized persons without the authority of the Board.

# 3.2.8 Internal Control Responsibilities of the Board

The control environment of the Corporation consists of (a) the Board which ensures that the Corporation is properly and effectively managed and supervised; (b) a Management that actively manages and operates the Corporation in a sound and prudent manner; (c) the organizational and procedural controls supported by effective management information and risk management reporting systems; and (d) an independent audit mechanism to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Corporation's governance, operations, and information systems, including the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information, the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, the safeguarding of assets, and compliance with laws, rules, regulations and contracts.

The Board shall adopt internal control mechanisms for the performance of its oversight responsibility.

# 3.2.9 Board Meetings and Quorum Requirement

The members of the Board, including Independent Directors, should attend its regular and special meetings in person or through teleconferencing if applicable, conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission. The absence of Independent Directors, however, shall not affect the quorum requirement.

To monitor the directors' compliance with their duty to attend Board meetings, the Corporation shall submit to the Commission, on or before January 30 of the following year a sworn certification about the directors' record of attendance in Board meetings. This certification may be submitted through SEC Form 17-C or in a separate filing.

## 3.2.10 Remuneration of Directors and Officers

The levels of remuneration of the Corporation should be sufficient to be able to attract and retain the services of qualified and competent directors and officers. A portion of the remuneration of executive directors may be structured or be based on corporate and individual performance.

The Corporation may establish formal and transparent procedures for the development of a policy on executive remuneration or determination of remuneration levels for individual directors and officers depending on the particular needs of the corporation. No director should participate in deciding on his remuneration.

The Corporation's annual reports and information and proxy statements shall include a clear, concise and understandable disclosure of all fixed and variable compensation that may be paid, directly or indirectly, to its directors and top four (4) management officers during the preceding fiscal year, in accordance with the provisions of the Securities Regulation Code.

To protect the funds of a corporation, the Commission may, in exceptional cases, e.g., when a corporation is under receivership or rehabilitation, regulate the payment of the compensation, allowances, fees and fringe benefits to its directors and officers.

## 3.2.11 Board Committees

The Board shall constitute board committees to assist it in good corporate governance.

#### 3.2.11.1 Nomination Committee

The Board shall organize a Nomination Committee which shall have at least three (3) members of the Board (one of whom should be an independent director). The Nomination Committee shall review and evaluate the qualifications of all persons nominated to the Board and other appointments that require Board approval, and to assess the effectiveness of the Board's processes and procedures in the election and replacement of directors.

#### 3.2.11.2 Compensation and Remuneration Committee

The Compensation or Remuneration Committee shall be composed of at least three (3) members of the Board, one of whom shall be an independent director.

The Compensation or Remuneration Committee shall establish a formal and transparent procedure for developing a policy on remuneration of directors and officers to ensure that their compensation is consistent with the Corporation's culture, strategy and the business environment in which it operates.

#### 3.2.11.3 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall be composed of at least three (3) members of the Board who shall preferably have accounting and finance backgrounds, at least one (1) of whom shall be an independent director and another with audit experience. The chair of the Audit Committee shall be an independent director.

The Audit Committee shall have the following functions:

a) Assist the Board in the performance of its oversight responsibility for the financial reporting process, system of internal control, audit process, and monitoring of compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations;

b) Provide oversight over Management's activities in managing credit, market, liquidity, operational, legal and other risks of the Corporation. This function shall include regular receipt from Management of information on risk exposures and risk management activities;

c) Perform oversight functions over the Corporation's internal and external auditors. It should ensure that the internal and external auditors act independently from each other, and that both auditors are given unrestricted access to all records, properties and personnel to enable them to perform their respective audit functions;

d) Review the annual internal audit plan to ensure its conformity with the objectives of the Corporation. The plan shall include the audit scope, resources and budget necessary to implement it;

e) Prior to the commencement of the audit, discuss with the external auditor the nature, scope and expenses of the audit, and ensure proper coordination if more than one audit firm is involved in the activity to secure proper coverage and minimize duplication of efforts;

f) Organize an internal audit department, and consider, when necessary and desirable, the appointment of an independent internal auditor and the terms and conditions of its engagement and removal;

g) Monitor and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control system including financial reporting control and information technology security;

h) Review the reports submitted by the internal and external auditors;

i) Review the quarterly, half-year and annual financial statements before their submission to the Board, with particular focus on the following matters:

Any change/s in accounting policies and practices; Major judgmental areas; Significant adjustments resulting from the audit; Going concern assumptions; Compliance with accounting standards; and Compliance with tax, legal and regulatory requirements.

j) Coordinate, monitor and facilitate compliance with laws, rules and regulations;

k) Evaluate and determine the non-audit work, if any, of the external auditor, and review periodically the nonaudit fee paid to the external auditor in relation to its significance to the total annual income of the external auditor and to the Corporation's overall consultancy expenses. The Committee shall disallow any non-audit work that will conflict with its duties as an external auditor or may pose a threat to its independence. The non-audit work, if allowed, should be disclosed in the Corporation's annual report; and

I) When applicable, establish and identify the reporting line of the Internal Auditor to enable him to properly

fulfill his duties and responsibilities. He shall functionally report directly to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee shall ensure that, in the performance of the work of the Internal Auditor, he shall be free from interference by outside parties.

## 3.2.12 The Chair and Chief Executive Officer

The roles of Chair and CEO should, as much as practicable, be separate to foster an appropriate balance of power, increased accountability and better capacity for independent decisionmaking by the Board. A clear delineation of functions should be made between the Chair and CEO upon their election. If the positions of Chair and CEO are unified, the proper checks and balances should be laid down to ensure that the Board gets the benefit of independent views and perspectives.

The duties and responsibilities of the Chair in relation to the Board shall include the following:

- Ensure that the meetings of the Board are held in accordance with the by-laws or as the Chair may deem necessary;
- (ii) Supervise the preparation of the agenda of the meeting in coordination with the Corporate Secretary, taking into consideration the suggestions of the CEO, Management and the directors; and
- (iii) Maintain qualitative and timely lines of the communication and information between the Board and Management.

## 3.2.13 Multiple Board Seats

The Board may consider the adoption of guidelines on the number of directorships that its members can hold in stock and non-stock corporations. The optimum number should take into consideration the capacity of a director to diligently and efficiently perform his duties and responsibilities.

The Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and other executive directors may be covered by a lower indicative limit for membership in other boards. A similar limit may apply to independent or nonexecutive directors who, at the same time, serve as full-time executives in other corporations. In any case, the capacity of the directors to diligently and efficiently perform their duties and responsibilities to the boards they serve should not be compromised.

# 3.3 The Corporate Secretary

The Corporate Secretary, who should be a Filipino citizen and a resident of the Philippines, is an officer of the Corporation. He should:

(i) Be responsible for the safekeeping and preservation of the integrity of the minutes of the meetings of the Board and its Committees, as well as the other official records of the Corporation;

(ii) Be loyal to the mission, vision and objectives of the Corporation;

(iii) Work fairly and objectively with the Board, Management, stockholders <u>and other stakeholders</u>;

(iv) Have appropriate administrative and interpersonal skills;

(v) If he is not at the same time the Corporation's legal counsel, he should be aware of the laws, rules and regulations necessary in the performance of his duties and responsibilities;

(vi) Have a working knowledge of the operations of the Corporation;

(vii) Inform the members of the Board, in accordance with the bylaws, of the agenda of their meetings and ensure that the members have before them accurate information that will enable them to arrive at intelligent decisions on matters that require their approval;

(viii) Attend all Board meetings, except when justifiable causes, such as, illness, death in the immediate family and serious accident, prevent him from doing so; and

(ix) Ensure that all Board procedures, rules and regulations are strictly followed by the members.

## 3.4 Adequate and Timely Information Support

To enable the members of the Board to properly fulfill their duties and responsibilities, Management should provide them with complete, adequate and timely information about the matters to be taken in their meetings. The information may include the background or explanation on matters brought before the Board, disclosure, budgets, forecasts and internal financial documents.

The members of the Board should be given independent access to Management and the Corporate Secretary.

The members, either individually or as a Board, and in furtherance of their duties and responsibilities, should have access to independent professional advice at the Corporation's expense.

## 3.5 Accountability and Audit

A) The Board is primarily accountable to the stockholders. It should provide them with a balanced and comprehensible assessment of the Corporation's performance, position and prospects and developments that could adversely affect its business, through reports required by law to be submitted to the Corporation's regulators.

It is essential that Management shall provide all members of the Board with accurate and timely information that would enable the Board to comply with its responsibilities to the stockholders.

Management should formulate, under the supervision of the Audit Committee, the rules and procedures on financial reporting and internal control in accordance with the following guidelines:

(i) The extent of its responsibility in the preparation of the financial statements of the Corporation, with the corresponding delineation of the responsibilities that pertain to the external auditor, should be clearly explained;

(ii) An effective system of internal control that will ensure the integrity of the financial reports and protection of the assets of the Corporation <u>for the benefit of all stockholders and other</u> <u>stakeholders</u>;

(iii) On the basis of the approved audit plans, internal audit examinations should cover, at the minimum, the evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of controls that cover the Corporation's governance, operations and information systems, including the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, protection of assets, and compliance with contracts, laws, rules and regulations;

(iv) The Corporation should consistently comply with the financial reporting requirements of the Commission;

(v) The external auditor should be rotated or changed every five (5) years or earlier, or the signing partner of the external auditing firm assigned to the Corporation, should be changed with the same frequency. When applicable, the Internal Auditor shall submit to the Audit Committee and Management an annual report on the internal audit department's activities, responsibilities and performance relative to the audit plans and strategies as approved by the Audit Committee. The annual reports should include significant risk exposures, control issues and such other matters as may be needed or requested by the Board and Management. The Internal Auditor should certify that he conducts his activities in accordance with the International Standards on the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. If he does not, he shall disclose to the Board and Management the reasons why he has not fully complied with the said standards.

B) The Board, after consultations with the Audit Committee, shall recommend to the stockholders an external auditor duly accredited by the Commission who shall undertake an independent audit of the Corporation, and shall provide an objective assurance on the manner by which the financial statements shall be prepared and presented to the stockholders. The external auditor shall not, at the same time, provide internal audit services to the Corporation. Non-audit work may be given to the external auditor, provided it does not conflict with its duties as an independent auditor, or does not pose a threat to its independence.

If the external auditor resigns, is dismissed or ceases to perform its services, the reason/s for and the date of effectivity of such action shall be reported in the Corporation's annual and current reports. The report shall include a discussion of any disagreement between the external auditor and the Corporation on accounting principles or practices, financial disclosures or audit procedures which the former auditor and the Corporation failed to resolve satisfactorily. A preliminary copy of the said report shall be given by the Corporation to the external auditor before its submission.

If the external auditor believes that any statement made in an annual report, information statement or any report filed with the Commission or any regulatory body during the period of its engagement is incorrect or incomplete, it shall give its comments or views on the matter in the said reports.

## 4 PROTECTION OF STOCKHOLDERS' RIGHTS

#### A) Rights of Stockholders

The Board shall respect the rights of the stockholders as provided for in the Corporation Code, namely:

- (i) Right to vote on all matters that require their consent or approval;
- (ii) Pre-emptive right to all stock issuances of the corporation;
- (iii) Right to inspect corporate books and records;
- (iv) Right to information;

- (v) Right to dividends; and
- (vi) Appraisal right.

B) The Board should be transparent and fair in the conduct of the annual and special stockholders' meetings of the Corporation. The stockholders should be encouraged to personally attend such meetings. If they cannot attend, they should be apprised ahead of time of their right to appoint a proxy. Subject to the requirements of the by-laws, the exercise of that right shall not be unduly restricted and any doubt about the validity of a proxy should be resolved in the stockholders' favor.

It is the duty of the Board to promote the rights of the stockholders, remove impediments to the exercise of those rights and provide an adequate avenue for them to seek timely redress for breach of their rights.

The Board should take the appropriate steps to remove excessive or unnecessary costs and other administrative impediments to the stockholders' meaningful participation in meetings, whether in person or by proxy. Accurate and timely information should be made available to the stockholders to enable them to make a sound judgment on all matters brought to their attention for consideration and approval.

Although all stockholders should be treated equally or without discrimination, the Board should give minority stockholders the right to propose the holding of meetings and the items for discussion in the agenda that relate directly to the business of the Corporation.

## 5 DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY

The essence of corporate governance is transparency. The more transparent the internal workings of the Corporation are, the more difficult it will be for Management and dominant stockholders to mismanage the Corporation or misappropriate its assets.

It is therefore essential that all material information about the Corporation which could be adversely affect its viability or the interests of the stockholders <u>and other stakeholders</u> should be publicly and timely disclosed. Such information should include among others, earnings results, acquisition or disposition of assets, off balance sheet transactions, and direct and indirect remuneration of members of the Board and Management.

The Board shall therefore commit at all times to full disclosure of material information. It shall cause the filing of all required information through the appropriate Exchange mechanisms for listed companies and submissions to the Commission for the interest of its stockholders and other stakeholders.

# 6 GOVERNANCE SELF-RATING

The Board may create an internal self-rating system that can measure the performance of the Board and Management in accordance with the criteria provided for in this code.

The creation and implementation of such self-rating system, including its salient features, may be disclosed in the Corporation's annual report.

For the Board of Directors ANDREW-L. TAN Chairman of the Board and CEO