



Bilateral Investment Treaty between Ghana and Malaysia

DEZAN SHIRA & ASSOCIATES

Corporate Establishment, Tax, Accounting & Payroll Throughout Asia

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**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA
FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION
OF INVESTMENTS**

The Government of Ghana and the Government of Malaysia hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties;"

Desiring to expand and strengthen 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 promoting the economic prosperity of both Contracting Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this agreement:

- (a) "investments" means every kind of asset and in particular, though not exclusively, includes:
 - i. movable and immovable property and any other property rights such as mortgages, liens or pledges;
 - 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 profits, interests, capital gains, dividends, royalties or fees;
- (c) "investor" means:
 - i. any natural person possessing the citizenship of, or permanently residing in the territory of a Contracting Party 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 Ghana, all territory comprising and including the Republic of Ghana, the territorial sea, its bed and subsoil and airspace above;

 - ii. with respect to Malaysia, all territory comprising the Federation of Malaysia, the territorial sea, its bed and subsoil and airspace above;

- (e) "freely usable currency" means the United States dollar, pound sterling, Deutschemark, 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 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, in accordance with its laws, regulations and national policies, shall admit such investments.
2. Investments of investors of each Contracting Party shall at all times be accorded equitable treatment and shall enjoy full and adequate protection and security in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

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. The provisions 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

Investors of one Contracting party whose investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party suffer losses owing to war or other armed conflict, revolution, a state of national emergency, revolt, insurrection or riot in the territory of the latter Contracting party shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement, no less favourable than that which the latter Contracting Party accords to investors of any third State.

ARTICLE 5

Expropriation

Neither Contracting Party shall take any measures of expropriation or nationalization against the investments of an investor of the other Contracting Party except under the following conditions:

- a. the measures are taken for a lawful or public purpose and under due process of law;
- b. the measures are non-discriminatory;
- c. the measures shall be accompanied by provision for the payment of adequate and effective compensation. Such compensation shall amount to the fair market value of the investment affected

immediately before the expropriation or before the measures of dispossession became public knowledge and it shall be freely transfereable in freely usable currencies from the contracting Parties;

- d. the compensation shall be paid without undue delay. If the compensation is not paid within six (6) months, it shall after that date attract interest at the prevailing commercial rate as agreed upon by both Parties until the date of payment.

ARTICLE 6

Transfers

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 one Contracting Party to the investors of the other Contracting Party which both Contracting parties have recognised as investment; and
 - (d) the net earnings and other compensations of investors of one 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 the accorded to 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. Disputes between a national or company of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party concerning an obligation of the latter under this agreement in relation to an investment of the former which have not been amicably settled shall, after a period of three months from written notification of a claim, be submitted to international arbitration if the investor concerned so wishes.
2. Where the dispute is referred to international arbitration, the investor and the Contracting Party concerned in the dispute may agree to refer the dispute either to:
 - a. the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (having regard to the provisions, where applicable, of the Convention of the Settlement of Investment Disputes between states and nationals of other states, opened for signature at Washington DC on 18th march, 1965 and the Additional Facility for the Administration of Conciliation, Arbitration and Fact-Finding Proceedings); or

- b. an international arbitrator of ad hoc arbitration tribunal to be appointed by a special agreement between the parties to the dispute or established under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.
3. If after a period of three months from written notification of the claim there is no agreement to one of the above alternative procedures, the parties to the dispute shall at request in writing of the investor concerned be submitted to arbitration under the arbitration rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law as then in force. The parties to the dispute may agree in writing to modify these Rules.

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, 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 two(2) 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 the 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 member 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

If a Contracting Party or its designated agency makes a payment to any of its investors under a guarantee it has granted in respect of an investment, the other Contracting Party shall, without prejudice to the rights of the former Contracting Party under Article 7, recognise the transfer of any right or title of such investors to the former Contracting Party or its designated agency and the subrogation of the former Contracting Party or its designated agency to any right or title.

ARTICLE 10

Application to Investments

This Agreement shall apply to investments made in the territory of either Contracting Party in accordance with its laws regulations or national policies by investors of the other Contraction Party prior to, as well as after the entry into force of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 11

Amendment

This agreement may be amended by mutual consent of both Contracting Parties at any time after it is in force. Any alteration or modification of this agreement shall be done without prejudice to the rights and obligations arising from this agreement prior to the date of such alteration or modification until such rights and obligations are fully implemented.

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 requirements 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 of 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 this day of..... in English Language..... and the Bahasa Malaysia, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA**