



Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between Malaysia and Albania

Effective January 1, 1996

DEZAN SHIRA & ASSOCIATES

Corporate Establishment, Tax, Accounting & Payroll Throughout Asia

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P.U. (A) 340/1994
Signed: 24 January 1994 (Kuala Lumpur)
Effective Date: 1 January 1996

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF
DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH
RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

DESIRING to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

PERSONAL SCOPE

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

Article 2

TAXES COVERED

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed by a Contracting State, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are in particular:

(a) in Albania, the taxes levied under:

- (i) the Law on Profit Tax;
- (ii) the Law on the Taxation of Small Business;
- (iii) the Law on Individual Income Tax;
(hereinafter referred to as "Albanian tax");

(b) in Malaysia:

- (i) the income tax; and

- (ii) the petroleum income tax;
(hereinafter referred to as "Malaysian tax").

3. The Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes on income which are imposed after the date of signature of this Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

Article 3

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) the term "Albania" means the Republic of Albania, and when used in a geographical sense means the territory of the Republic of Albania including any area beyond the territorial seas of the Republic of Albania which, in accordance with international law and the laws of the Republic of Albania, is an area within which the Republic of Albania may exercise rights with respect to the seabed and subsoil and their natural resources;
 - (b) the term "Malaysia" means the territories of the Federation of Malaysia, the territorial waters of Malaysia and the seabed and subsoil of the territorial waters, and includes any area extending beyond the limits of the territorial waters of Malaysia, and the seabed and subsoil of any such area, which has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of Malaysia as in accordance with international law as an area over which Malaysia has sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring and exploiting the natural resources, whether living or non-living;
 - (c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Albania or Malaysia as the context requires;
 - (d) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons, which is treated as a person for tax purposes;
 - (e) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
 - (f) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
 - (g) the term "tax" means Albanian tax or Malaysian tax as the context requires;

- (h) the term "national" means:
 - (i) any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship of a Contracting State;
 - (ii) any legal person, partnership, association and any other entity deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;
- (i) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State.
- (j) the term "competent authority" means:
 - (i) in Albania, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative; and
 - (ii) in Malaysia, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;

2. As regards the application of the Agreement by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the law of that State concerning the taxes to which the Agreement applies.

Article 4

RESIDENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means:
 - (a) in the case of Malaysia, a person who is resident in Malaysia for the purposes of Malaysian Tax; and
 - (b) in the case of Albania, a person who is resident in Albania for the purposes of Albanian tax.
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
 - (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him. If he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);

- (b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
- (c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State of which he is a national;
- (d) if he is a national of both States or of neither of them the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1, a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which its place of effective management is situated.

Article 5

PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term "permanent establishment" includes especially:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;
- (c) an office;
- (d) a factory;
- (e) a workshop; and
- (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources including timber or other forest produce;
- (g) a farm or plantation;
- (h) a building site or constitution, installation or assembly project which lasts for more than 9 months.

3. The term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:

- (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage or display of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage or display;
- (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
- (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

4. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it carries on supervisory activities in that other State for more than 9 months in connection with a construction, installation or assembly project which is being undertaken in that other State.

5. Where a person (other than a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies) is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned State, if:

- (a) he has, and habitually exercises in the first-mentioned State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless his activities are limited to the purchase of goods or merchandise for the enterprise;
- (b) he maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise from which he regularly fills orders on behalf of the enterprise; or
- (c) he manufactures or processes in the first-mentioned State for the enterprise goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise.

6. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that other State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, where such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business. However, when the activities of such an agent are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of that enterprise, he shall not be considered an agent of an independent status if the transactions between the

agent and the enterprise were made under conditions which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

Article 6

INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "immovable property" shall be defined in accordance with the laws of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, oil or gas wells, quarries and other places of extracting of natural resources including timber and other forest produce. Ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

Article 7

BUSINESS PROFITS

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting States through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits for the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of thereof as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State

be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses including executive and general administrative expenses which would be deductible if the permanent establishment were an independent enterprise, insofar as they are reasonably allocable to the permanent establishment, whether incurred in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. If the information available to the competent authority is inadequate to determine the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment of an enterprise, nothing in this Article shall affect the application of any law of that State relating to the determination of the tax liability of a person by making an estimate, provided that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

Article 8

SHIPPING AND AIR TRANSPORT

1. Profits derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxed only in that State.

2. Paragraph 1 shall also apply to share of the profits from the operation of ships or aircraft derived by a resident of a Contracting State through participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

Article 9

ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES

Where:

- (a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
- (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State, and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

Article 10

DIVIDENDS

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends, the tax so charged shall not exceed:
 - (a) 5% of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company which holds directly at least 25% of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
 - (b) 15% of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases. The competent authorities of the Contracting State shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation. This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.
3. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a

resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

Article 11

INTEREST

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting state may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such interest may be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises, and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10% of the gross amount of the interest.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest to which a resident of Albania is beneficially entitled shall be exempt from Malaysian tax if the loan or other indebtedness in respect of which the interest is paid is an approved loan as defined in section 2(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1967 of Malaysia.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3, the Government of a Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in the other Contracting State in respect of interest derived by the Government from that other State.

5. For the purposes of paragraph 4, the term "Government":

(a) in the case of Malaysia means the Government of Malaysia and shall include:

(i) the governments of the States;

(ii) the local authorities;

(iii) the statutory bodies;

(iv) the Bank Negara Malaysia; and

- (v) such institutions, the capital of which is wholly owned by the Government of Malaysia or the governments of the States, or the local authorities or the statutory body thereof, as may be agreed upon from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States;
- (b) in the case of Albania means the Government of the Albania and shall include:
 - (i) the Central Bank of Albania;
 - (ii) such institutions, the capital of which is wholly owned by the Government of Albania as may be agreed upon from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

6. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage, and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures.

7. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises through a permanent establishment situated therein and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

8. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof, or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

9. Where by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest paid, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

Article 12
ROYALTIES

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the law of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10% of the gross amount of the royalties.
3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for:
 - (a) the use of, or the right to use, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or any copyright of scientific work, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial, or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience;
 - (b) the use of, or the right to use, cinematograph films, or tapes for radio or television broadcasting, any copyright of literary or artistic work.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof, or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying such royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the obligation to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.
6. Where by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties paid, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such a case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the law of each

Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

Article 13

TECHNICAL FEES

1. Technical fees arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such technical fees may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the law of that State, but where the beneficial owner of the technical fees is a resident of the other Contracting State the tax so charged shall not exceed 10% of the gross amount of the technical fees.
3. The term "technical fees" as used in this Article means payments of any kind to any person, other than to an employee of the person making the payments, in consideration for any services of a technical, managerial or consultancy nature.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the technical fees, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the technical fees arise through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services, and the technical fees are effectively connected with such permanent establishment or such services. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15, as the case may be, shall apply.
5. Technical fees shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof, or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the technical fees, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the obligation to pay the technical fees was incurred, and such technical fees are borne by such permanent establishment, then such technical fees shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.
6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the technical fees paid exceeds, for whatever reason, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the law of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

Article 14

GAINS FROM THE ALIENATION OF PROPERTY

1. Gains from the alienation of immovable property, as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing professional services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or together with the whole enterprise) may be taxed in that other State. However, gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State in international traffic and movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in the State of which the enterprise is a resident.
3. Gains from the alienation of any property or assets, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

Article 15

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Subject to Article 13, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of a similar character shall be taxable only in that State. However, in the following circumstances such income may be taxed in the other Contracting State:
 - (a) if his stay in the other State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned; or
 - (b) if the remuneration for his services in the other State is either derived from residents of that State or borne by a permanent establishment which a person not resident in that State has in that State and which, in either case exceeds 4000 US dollars in the calendar year concerned, notwithstanding that his stay in that State is for a period or periods amounting to less than 183 days during that calendar year.
2. The term "professional services" includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, dentists, lawyers, engineers, architects and accountants.

Article 16

DEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 17, 19, 20 and 21, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:
 - (a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned;
 - (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State; and
 - (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment which the employer has in the other State.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State, may be taxed in that State.

Article 17

DIRECTORS' FEES

Directors' fees and similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

Article 18

ARTISTES AND SPORTSMEN

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 15 and 16, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.
2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of

Articles 7, 15 and 16, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to remuneration or profits derived from activities exercised in a Contracting State if the visit to that State is directly or indirectly supported wholly or substantially from the public funds of the other Contracting State, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

Article 19

PENSIONS AND ANNUITIES

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 20, any pension and other similar remuneration for past employment or any annuity arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State.

2. The term "annuity" includes a stated sum payable periodically at stated times, during life or during a specified or ascertainable period of time, under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth.

Article 20

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

1. (a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or political subdivision or a local authority or a statutory body thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that State or political subdivision or a local authority or statutory body thereof shall be taxable only in that State.

(b) However, such remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that other State and the recipient is a resident of that State who:

- (i) is a national of that other State; or
- (ii) did not become a resident of that other State solely for the purposes of performing the services.

2. Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State, a political subdivision or a local authority or a statutory body thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that State, political subdivision, local authority or statutory body thereof shall be taxable only in that State.

3. The provisions of Articles 16, 17 and 19 shall apply to remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with any trade or

business carried on by a Contracting State or a political or a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

Article 21

STUDENTS AND TRAINEES

1. An individual who is a resident of a Contracting State immediately before making a visit to the other Contracting State and is temporarily present in the other State solely:

- (a) as a student at a recognised university, college, school or other similar recognised educational institution in that other State;
- (b) as a business or technical apprentice;
- (c) as a recipient of a grant, allowance or award for the primary purpose of study, research or training from the Government of either State or from a scientific, educational, religious or charitable organisation or under a technical assistance programme entered into by the Government of either State, shall be exempt from tax in that other State on:
 - (i) all remittances from abroad for the purposes of his maintenance, education, study, research or training;
 - (ii) the amount of such grant, allowance or award; and
 - (iii) any remuneration not exceeding 2000 US dollars per year in respect of services in that other State provided the services are performed in connection with his study, research or training or are necessary for the purposes of his maintenance.

Article 22

TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS

1. An individual who is a resident of a Contracting State immediately before making a visit to the other Contracting State, and who, at the invitation of any university, college or other similar educational institution, visits that other State for a period not exceeding two years solely for the purpose of teaching or researching or both at such educational institution shall be exempt from tax in that other State on any remuneration for such teaching or research which is subject to tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

2. This Article shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

Article 23

INCOME NOT EXPRESSLY MENTIONED

Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, which are not expressly mentioned in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that Contracting State except that if such income is derived from sources in the other Contracting State, it may also be taxed in that other State.

Article 24

ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

1. Subject to the laws of Malaysia regarding the allowance as a credit against Malaysian tax of tax payable in any country other than Malaysia, the Albanian tax payable under the laws of Albania and in accordance with this Agreement by a resident of Malaysia in respect of income derived from Albania shall be allowed as a credit against Malaysian tax payable in respect of that income. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Albania to a company which is a resident of Malaysia and which owns not less than 15% of the voting shares of the company paying the dividend, the credit shall take into account Albanian tax payable by that company in respect of its income out of which the dividend is paid. The credit shall not, however, exceed that part of the Malaysian tax, as computed before the credit is given, which is appropriate to such item of income.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this Article, the term "Albanian tax payable" shall be deemed to include any amount which would have been payable as Albanian tax in accordance with this Agreement, but is not payable for an exemption or reduction of tax granted for a certain period of time under the laws of Albania for the promotion of economic development.

3. Where a resident of Albania derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement may be taxed in Malaysia, Albania shall allow as a deduction from its tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the Malaysian tax payable. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the Albanian income tax as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in Malaysia.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 3, the term "Malaysian tax payable" shall be deemed to include the amount of Malaysian tax which would have been paid if the Malaysian tax had not been reduced or exempted in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, and:

- (a) the special incentives under the Malaysian laws for the promotion of economic development of Malaysia or any other provisions which may subsequently be introduced in Malaysia in modification of, or in addition

to, those laws so far as they are agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States to be of a substantially similar character; and

- (b) interest to which paragraph 3 of Article 11 applies had that interest not been exempted from Malaysian tax in accordance with that paragraph.

Article 25

NON-DISCRIMINATION

1. The nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances are or may be subjected.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities.

3. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of that first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

4. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as obliging:

- (a) a Contracting State to grant to individuals who are resident of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents;

- (b) Malaysia to grant to nationals of Albania not resident in Malaysia, those personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which are by law available on the date of signature of this Agreement only to nationals of Malaysia who are not resident in Malaysia.

5. Nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to prevent either Contracting State from limiting to its nationals the enjoyment of tax incentives designed to promote economic development in that State.

6. In this Article, the term "taxation" means taxes to which this Agreement applies.

Article 26

MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

1. Where a resident of the Contracting State considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with this Agreement, he may, notwithstanding the remedies provided by the taxation laws of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 25, to that of the State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.
2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at an appropriate solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority or the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Agreement.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purposes of reaching an agreement in the preceding paragraphs.

Article 27

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting State shall exchange such information as is necessary for the carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or for the prevention or detection of evasion or avoidance of taxes covered by this Agreement. Any information so exchanged shall be treated as secret and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including a court or reviewing authority) concerned with the assessment, collection, enforcement of prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes which are the subject of the Agreement.
2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:
 - (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;

- (b) to supply information which are not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret of trade process or information the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.

Article 28

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICERS

Nothing in this Agreement shall effect the fiscal privileges of diplomatic or consular officers under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

Article 29

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Agreement shall be ratified by both Contracting States and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged as soon as possible.

2. This Agreements shall enter into force upon-the exchange of the instruments of ratification and shall have effect:

(a) in Malaysia:

- (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income derived on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following the year in which this Agreement enters into force;
- (ii) in respect of taxes on income, to taxes chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after first day of January of the second calendar year following the year in which this Agreement enters into force and subsequent years of assessment;

(b) in Albania, in respect of income derived on or after the first day of January of the calendar year following that of entry into force of the Agreement.

Article 30

TERMINATION

This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely, but either Contracting State may terminate the Agreement, through diplomatic channels, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination on or before June 30th in any calendar year after the period of five years from the date on which this

Agreement enters into force. In such an event the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

- (a) in Malaysia:
 - (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income derived on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following the year in which the notice is given;
 - (ii) in respect of other taxes on income, to taxes chargeable for any years of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January of the second calendar year following the year in which the notice is given;
- (b) in Albania, in respect of income derived on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given.

IN WITNESS whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Kuala Lumpur this 24th day of January 1994, each in Bahasa Malaysia, in the Albanian and the English language, the three texts being equally authentic. In the event of there being a dispute in the interpretation and the application of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

PROTOCOL

At the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Republic of Albania for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), both sides have agreed upon the following provisions which form an integral part of the Agreement.

1. In connection with Article 15 on "Independent Personal Services":

Where a resident of Malaysia has a fixed base available to him in Albania and is engaged in providing professional services or other independent activities, then the amount of income attributed to that fixed base may be taxed in Albania. Such regulation concerning taxes on the fixed base also applies to paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 10, paragraphs 7 and 8 of Article 11, paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 12, paragraph 2 of Article 14, paragraph 1(b) of Article 15 and paragraph 2(c) of

Article 16. The term "fixed base" in Albania means a fixed operating place where an individual is regularly engaged in providing certain professional services.

IN WITNESS whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

Done in duplicate at Kuala Lumpur this 24th day of January 1994, each in Bahasa Malaysia, Albanian and the English language, the three texts being equally authentic. In the event of there being a dispute in the interpretations the English text shall prevail.