

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 6856



Introduced by Representative
BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, under Article IV, Section 1, provides that those who are naturalized in accordance with law are citizens of the Philippines. The Supreme Court has held that admission to citizenship is one of the highest privileges that our Republic can confer upon a foreigner. This bill seeks to grant such privilege to Dr. Liping Zheng, an accomplished economist, academic, and artist who has made the Philippines his home for over 17 years and has demonstrated a sincere desire to continue serving the country.

Professionally, Dr. Zheng has made significant contributions to the Philippines through his tenure at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) from 2008 to 2022, where he served as an advisor and member of the regional management team. He led the development of critical digital innovations, specifically the Climate Change Risk Data Platform and the Climate Risk Screening Tool launched in 2018. These tools provided science-based data and visual analytics that have assisted Philippine government agencies and local government units in making informed decisions regarding infrastructure, urban planning, agriculture, and water resource management.

Dr. Zheng is a distinguished scholar who holds a PhD in Economics from Nankai University and a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University. He has served as a visiting researcher at the University of Minnesota and has published extensively on economics and anti-corruption. Since retiring from the ADB, he has remained active in the local development sector, serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harvard Kennedy School Alumni Association of the Philippines, where he supports financial grants for newly admitted Filipino students.

Beyond his professional and academic pursuits, Dr. Zheng has shown deep affection for the Filipino people through impactful philanthropy. During the height of the COVID-19

pandemic, he donated over USD 50,000 worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) to hospitals and frontline workers. Committed to education, he established a scholarship program for underprivileged Filipino students and is currently sponsoring five college students.

Dr. Zheng is also a passionate patron of the arts and a gifted painter who has integrated himself into the local cultural scene. He donated a harp valued at PHP 1 million to the Manila Symphony Orchestra and was the founder of the ADB Artists Circle. He has held solo exhibitions at venues such as the Ayala Museum and the University of Santo Tomas, with his most recent work, *An Homage to the Philippine Landscape*, celebrating the country's flora. Furthermore, he has used art for social rehabilitation by conducting free workshops for inmates at the Muntinlupa jail and judging art exhibitions for the Bureau of Corrections.

Dr. Zheng's long-standing residence, professional achievements, and active involvement in socio-civic endeavors clearly reflect his deep connection to the Philippines. The grant of Philippine citizenship would acknowledge his dedication and enable him to deepen his contributions to Filipino society as a citizen in law and in spirit.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA.
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6856

Introduced by Representative

BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA.

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO LIPING ZHENG

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Liping Zheng is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, and prerogatives, as well as, duties and obligations appurtenant thereto, under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Liping Zheng shall take the Oath of Allegiance before a duly authorized officer to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SECTION 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Liping Zheng who shall thereupon enter into the full employment of Philippine citizenship.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,


HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA.
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List