

PRESS RELEASE

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OFW contacts processed by POEA in 2005 hit 1 million mark

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has facilitated the employment of more than one million overseas Filipinos workers but only 963,115 was able to leave the country in 2005.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said that based on preliminary reports, POEA has processed the documents of 1,014,969 workers last year compared to 941,722 in 2004 or an increase of 7.8 percent. Contracts of landbased workers reached 715,641, an increase of 24.5 percent from 572,587 recorded in 2004. Seafarers contracts was 302,328 with a slight increase of 3.7 percent from the 2004 figure of 291,516.

The number of workers deployed in 2005 was a little short of the target but Baldoz said she was still contented by the fact that the POEA and the recruitment industry sector were able to secure jobs for more than 1 million Filipinos last year.

"I am not so disappointed by the figures because I know that the workers who were not able to leave last year would eventually have their jobs in the first 2 months of 2006", Baldoz said.

Baldoz said the top 10 country of destinations for OFWs were Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Japan, Taiwan, Kuwait, Hong Kong, Qatar, Lebanon, South Korea and Singapore. The United States of America placed 19th in the ranking. Deployment to Korea increased by 66 percent, Qatar plus 35 percent and Lebanon by 116 percent. However, There were notable decreases in deployment to Japan with negative 29 percent, Hong Kong -66 percent, Singapore -52 percent and the USA -41 percent.

The increase in deployment to Korea was attributed to the full implementation of the new Employment Permit System, according to Baldoz.

Baldoz also noted the increase in the accreditation of new landbased foreign employers in 2005 which generated 441,607 job vacancies for the Caribbean, New Zealand and the traditional markets of Asia and the Middle East.

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