

NEWS RELEASE

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POEA sees more OFWs deployed in 2007

The Philippine Overseas Administration sees a further increase in total deployment of overseas Filipino workers 2007 with the implementation of several agreements signed between the Philippines and other countries of destination.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the hiring agreements signed with Taiwan, Spain, South Korea and Libya are expected to further boost deployment of OFWs next year despite the projected slowdown of deployment of household workers.

The Philippines has renewed the memorandum of understanding on the Special Hiring Program for Taiwan during the first Philippines-Taiwan Joint Labor Conference. Taiwan will employ Filipino factory workers through the POEA on a government-to-government basis.

Spain has started recruitment of Filipino caregivers and nurses under "Proyecto Piloto", the experimental hiring of Filipino healthcare professionals and skilled workers which is expected to be implemented full-blown next year. Under the RP-Spain Memorandum of Agreement on management of Migratory Flows, only Philippine-based and licensed recruitment agencies are allowed to deploy OFWs to Spain and the point of hiring and issuance of entry visas and work permits are exclusively in the Philippines.

South Korea has also renewed the memorandum of agreement on the Employment Permit System. "We expect Korea to give us a quota higher than the 10,000 we had in 2006." Baldoz said.

Libya has also signed an agreement with the Philippines on the possible recruitment of more nurses and household workers.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion and Administrator Baldoz recently signed the hiring agreement with the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan intends to employ Filipino nurses and caregivers. ###