



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Korea ends recruitment for Alien Industrial Trainee System, warns overstaying OFWs**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said Korea has abolished the Alien Industrial Trainee System and stopped issuing trainee visas effective January 1, 2007.

In a recent meeting with POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, Dr. Yong-Dal Kim, President of Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRD Korea) said Philippine licensed agencies formerly hiring trainees for Korea can no longer recruit workers under the trainee scheme.

Korea currently implements the Employment Permit System (EPS) with the participation of 9 other sending countries which include Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Cambodia, Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Korean employers could only get foreign workforce legally through the EPS.

Dr. Kim reiterated that private recruitment agencies are not authorized to participate in implementation of the EPS and he asked the cooperation of the POEA to maintain such system. The POEA is the only government organization authorized to implement the EPS in the country.

The Government of Korea insisted on a government-to-government recruitment system through the POEA starting in 2004, in order to correct the exorbitant mobilization costs through the private sector.

Dr. Kim advised Filipinos working as industrial trainees in Korea to come back to the Philippines upon expiration of their contract and re-apply under the Employment Permit System (EPS) instead of going illegal.

According to Kim, a huge number of overstaying workers will affect the labor quota that will be given to the Philippines under the Employment Permit System.

Baldoz said former trainees who wish to continue working legally in Korea can register with the POEA. They should pass the Korean Language Test (KLT) and the medical requirements for inclusion in the Roster of Jobseekers to have another chance to be hired by Korean employers. Former trainees should, however, wait for at least six months before they could go back to work in Korea.

The HRD Korea head also emphasized that employers will face stiff penalty for employing illegal foreign workers in Korea. ###