



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Rise in deployment of professional and technical workers boosts OFW remittances**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) said the increasing number of deployed professional and skilled workers caused the steady increase of remittances by overseas Filipino workers.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the one big factor that contributed to the hefty volume of remittances during the January to February 2007 was the remarkable increase in the number of professional and skilled workers who are employed in high paying jobs in their country of assignment.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported that total OFW remittances reached US\$2.184.898 representing an increase of 22.6% from the figure a year ago.

Baldoz said the percentage share of professional and technical workers group went up by 3.3 percentage points from 10.9% in first quarter of 2006 to 14.2% for the same period in 2007. This group of high end skills consisting of professional, technical and highly skilled workers accounted for 70.8% of the total new hires, while low- end skills only constituted 29.2%.

Baldoz added that for the first time, the production and related workers category took the number one position with 39.3% share of the total new hires deployment. It took the lead over service workers group, which topped the list of major occupations in 2006 with 50% share of the total new hires deployment, as it slid down to the second position with 35.8% share. The third position was taken

by the professional and technical workers category with a share of 14% of the total.

Baldoz also explained that the decline of deployment in the first quarter of every year is a historical trend and expressed confidence that OFW deployment will stage a strong rebound during the second quarter of the year.

For the first quarter of 2007, like in the past years, the number of Filipino workers who left for overseas jobs registered a decline as it slowed down by 10.5% to 256,241 during the first quarter this year from 280,605 recorded in the same period in 2006. It consisted of 192,169 landbased workers and 59,072 seafarers, representing a drop of 9% and 14.8%, respectively from the first quarter figures last year.

Saudi Arabia remains as top country-destination of new hires for the first quarter of 2007, Saudi Arabia maintained the lead with 38.3% of the total deployment, followed by United Arab Emirates (14.5%), Qatar (9.0%), Taiwan (8.4%), Kuwait (7.0%), Hong Kong (5.0%), South Korea (2.0%), Bahrain (1.71%), Canada (1.5%), and Japan (1.12%). ###