



News Release
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IOM partners with POEA on irregular migration

On the occasion of the POEA's silver anniversary month, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has embarked on a technical assistance program to the POEA by virtue of an existing Memorandum of Agreement for the conduct of information campaign on irregular migration. Specifically, the technical assistance program is funded by the European Commission which seeks to promote regional dialogue and facilitate legal and managed migration from Asia to Europe.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda D. Baldoz says that "the presence of sizeable numbers of Filipinos in the European Union makes such intervention very relevant as a notable proportion of them have been hired directly and individually under irregular status."

Part of IOM's intervention under its Labor Migration Support-AENEAS Project is to enable Asian sending countries to access to accurate and reliable information on the EU labor market. "The free flow of information on labor market opportunities has always been the cornerstone in the empowerment of migrant workers", says Bruce Reed, Representative of IOM Manila. "The Philippines has always served as a good laboratory for experimenting new modes of intervention for an organized management of labor migration", he adds.

The IOM partnership with the POEA has grown stronger through the years. It is taking a new shape of cooperation as both organizations venture into launching a "marketing kiosk" and a training program for a new pool of marketing specialists.

"While the POEA has established a global leadership in labor market development, there remains a gigantic task in analyzing new market challenges and enabling the public and the recruitment industry understand opportunities and risks. For more than two decades now, we have shared our model to many sending countries but we likewise need assistance to

address our weaknesses,” Baldoz cites in her appreciation to IOM intervention.

The IOM through the EC-funded project is mobilizing a dedicated computer for uploading and accessing relevant information to/from the marketing page of the POEA website. IOM National Programme Officer, Ricardo R. Casco, explains “that based on consultation with the POEA, the provision of a market kiosk can help drive the force of building data set of market information and provide a user-friendly access system for stakeholders.” Casco adds that “when the kiosk is in place, the liaison officers of the recruitment industry who come daily to POEA for transactions may visit it while on the wait.”

The POEA through its technical managers has recently benefited from a Basic Orientation Course on Library, Web, Publications and Communications Management conducted by IOM experts from Geneva, Bangkok and Manila. IOM has also undertaken to regularize the provision of publications to the POEA library.

“Apart from the usual facilities of information such as the pre-employment and pre-departure seminars, the anti-illegal recruitment/trafficking campaign, it is important to enable other facilities to contribute to information dissemination such as libraries, websites, information kiosks and other migration resource centers, “ Casco explains.

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