



NEWS RELEASE

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More quality jobs for newly-hired OFWs in 2007

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration reported that there were more Filipino workers who got high value jobs abroad last year, as the volume of professionals and skilled workers accounted for 75% or 199,267 of the total new hires (311,598) representing a 6.7% increase from 186,780 in 2006.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said this group of quality workers was composed of professional nurses, production and related engineering technicians, and electrical and mechanical engineers).

In contrast, low-end skills category only accounted for 25% or 302,673 of the total new hires. The number of workers in low-end skills category was down by 41.2% from 115,893 the preceding year. In 2006, the percentage ratio of high-end/high value jobs over that of low-end skills was placed at 62:38.

Baldoz said the number of newly hired domestic and household related workers was cut down by more than a half to 39,687 in 2007 from 91,412 in 2006. Also, the volume of laborers/helpers involved in construction industries decreased to 3,653 from 5,376.

In her report, Baldoz said Saudi Arabia has remained the top country destination of newly hired Filipino workers, employing a total of 89,108 in 2007, followed by United Arab Emirates with 40,126, Qatar, 26,529; Taiwan, 23,331; Hong Kong, 16,124; Kuwait, 15,476; Canada, 6,527; South Korea, 4,913; Italy, 4,818; and Japan, 4,015. Deployment to almost all the countries registered a marked increase in number.

Baldoz said foreign employers/principals have remained confident with the skills and competence of Filipino workers as the total number of employers reached 19,672 or 98% of the annual target of 20,000. Also during the period, the number of manning principals rose by 4.3% to 880 in 2007 from 844 in 2006.

The number of manpower requests from foreign employers in 2007 increased to 654,938 from 565,682 in 2006. Crew orders from manning principals totaled 51,504 last year, although 5.7% lower than 54,617 the previous year.

Baldoz said the POEA dispatched four (4) government-led marketing missions to Taiwan, UEA, Azerbaijan and Canada in its continuing effort to expand employment opportunities for Filipino workers. The POEA also hosted a total of 10 foreign government delegations from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and British Columbia provinces of Canada, Cyprus, UAE, and Azerbaijan.

It also pursued/proposed a total of 10 bilateral labor agreements and arrangements with the following: UEA (signed in April 2007), Croatia, Singapore, Taiwan, Azerbaijan, Alberta, Manitoba, British Columbia, Malaysia and Qatar.

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