



## **NEWS ADVISORY**

November 14, 2008

# **Korea extends hiring agreement with DOLE**

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has clarified that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Labor (MOL) for the Employment Permit System (EPS), a government-to-government program to send Filipino workers to Korea, has been effectively extended while negotiation for its renewal is ongoing.

DOLE Undersecretary Luzviminda G. Padilla signed the Agreement for the extension of the validity of the MOU for at least three (3) months from 20 October 2008 while Director-General Lee, Jae-kap signed for the MOL of Korea.

The POEA acts as the only sending agency in the Philippines while the HRD Korea is the counterpart agency of the MOL in continuously implementing the EPS, which to date has a total of 20,909 deployed workers since August 2004.

Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili has reiterated that interested applicants should watch out for official guidelines from the POEA and avoid being lured by illegal recruiters. The Korean Language Test to qualify for inclusion in the EPS Roster of Jobseekers will be administered by HRD Korea based on a new Service Commitment Agreement to be signed with the POEA.

To help increase the passing rate in the EPS-KLT, the HRD-MOL Korea came out with its 2,000 pool of test questions which are accessible in the POEA website [www.poea.gov.ph](http://www.poea.gov.ph) for all interested applicants.

The EPS, however, does not guarantee employment but provides registered applicants a chance to be offered a labor contract if their qualifications match those specified by the Korean employers. ###