



*News Advisory
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Migrant Workers' Day at POEA

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration celebrates Migrant Workers Day on June 8, 2009 with the theme "*Bayanihan para sa Kagalingan ng OFWs*". The celebration will highlight the role of POEA's partners in the government and private sectors in the promotion of the well-being, and protection of overseas Filipino workers.

In recent years, the POEA continued to strengthen linkages with national agencies, local government units, and private entities like banking institutions, telecommunication companies, travel agencies, recruitment industry groups to deliver fast, effective and efficient services to OFWs and other clients.

On June 8, the POEA expands further its cooperation efforts with the launching of the Best Partner in Anti-Illegal Recruitment (PAIR) Campaign Award, and the signing of memorandum of understanding with Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI), Joint Manning Group (JMG), Land Bank of the Philippines and Netopia.

The Best PAIR Award seeks to give proper recognition to local government units and non-government organizations for their accomplishments and contribution to the government's campaign against illegal recruitment.

The MOA with PASEI, an association of landbased agencies, is intended to professionalize the recruitment industry through continuous capability building, ethical recruitment practices, and moral value enrichment of officers and staff of recruitment agencies.

The MOA with JMG, a coalition of various seabased industry associations, namely, FAME, PJMCC, PAMAS, INTERMAP, FSA and COMMA, aims to ensure that Filipino seafarers continue to be the preferred nationality onboard foreign-going vessels. Under the MOA, both parties commit to consult each other monthly on matters affecting seafarers and to regularly exchange information in aid of policy formulation to promote the well-being and continued employment of the Filipino seafarers.

The partnership with Netopia will encourage internet users, especially overseas job applicants, OFWs and their families, to visit the POEA website ***www.poea.gov.ph*** by giving them discounted rates on internet browsing. The POEA website is very rich in information like availability of job orders, status of recruitment agencies, employment advisories, and rules and regulations on overseas employment.

In cooperation with Globe Telecom, the POEA is also intensifying the promotion of its new SMS service (Text POEA 2917) as a tool in preventing illegal recruitment and as a job search facility for work abroad.

As in previous Migrant Workers' Day events, special services in cooperation with the Department of Health and Association of Medical Clinics for Overseas Workers will also be provided to migrant workers such as free medical and dental services, as well as free legal consultation.