



NEWS RELEASE
17 September 2009

POEA launches recognition awards for its partners against illegal recruitment

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) announced the launch of the First Best Partner in Illegal Recruitment Award – or Best PAIR -- to recognize the initiatives and contributions in 2008 of the different local government units, NGOs, socio-civic societies, professional groups, educational institutions, faith-based groups and private entities in working towards an illegal-recruitment free society.

POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili said the awards will cover outstanding contributions made by POEA partners until September 2008. She said that since the POEA first launched its anti-illegal recruitment drive in 1996, it has forged partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with 208 LGUs and eight (8) private groups. The POEA, she added, has equipped its partners with all the necessary information and orientation on illegal recruitment processes and established a system whereby reported cases can be triangulated by the combined efforts of partner agencies and groups.

In November of this year, the Best PAIR Award will be given to the outstanding LGU partners in the NCR, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The award also seeks to give due recognition to groups that have conducted the best Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) in their respective localities with the Outstanding PESO Partner Awards in the NCR, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. There will also be an awards for Outstanding Private Entity Partner.

According to Manalili, the campaign against illegal recruitment, though long and arduous, is one that has greatly benefitted from the support and assistance of POEA's partner LGUs and other civic groups. "Through their collective efforts at information dissemination, efficient surveillance and reporting of illegal recruitment cases, we have put up effective resistance against illegal recruitment. It is but fitting therefore that we give our partners due recognition," Manalili said.

She added that "the Best PAIR Awards are being given and will continue to be given to ensure that we are always on our toes in monitoring and curbing illegal recruitment activities." The POEA said the Awards will hereafter be an annual event that will be held during Migrant Workers Celebration. ###