

NEWS RELEASE
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POEA ties up with SM Malls to educate would-be overseas workers about illegal recruitment, frauds and job requirements

Are overseas workers fully aware of what they will encounter and experience abroad? Are they ready for the various challenges and the cultural adjustments they have to make?

In its effort to prepare would-be overseas workers more fully for careers abroad, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has partnered with SM Malls to provide the answers to these and similar questions about overseas employment.

Starting this September, Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) will be given for free to anyone interested to know about overseas employment at selected SM Malls. This undertaking is made possible with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the DOLE-POEA and the SM Retail, Inc. and SM Prime Holdings, Inc., last 24 August 2009.

Unlike the pre-departure orientation seminars which an OFW is required to attend after completing all the requirements for an overseas job, POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili stated that the PEOS aims to create greater awareness and a true understanding of foreign employment for those who are still considering the prospects of working abroad. “Worker-applicants need to be oriented early on so they can make the right decision of whether to work overseas or avail themselves

of opportunities at home. A reliable information program like the PEOS can help them make an informed and intelligent decision,” she said.

Manalili also described the PEOS as a tool for worker protection and empowerment because it explains the procedures, documentary requirements, advantages and disadvantages of overseas employment, selection and verification of the Philippine licensed agencies, the modus operandi of illegal recruiters and the ways to detect illegal recruitment activities, plus the government services available to overseas job applicants and hired workers.

PEOS is also regularly being conducted at the POEA Main Office in Ortigas and its Regional Offices nationwide, at partner schools and universities, at the local government units’ Public Employment Service Offices, on air via personal appearances and guestings on TV and radio programs, particularly programs on OFW concerns.