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PRESS RELEASE

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EPS-KOREAN LANGUAGE TEST TO HAPPEN EARLY NEXT YEAR

Filipino workers wishing to qualify under the Korean Employment Permit System (EPS) may start to prepare for the next EPS Korean Language Test to be administered early next year.

While awaiting official notice on the EPS labor quota for the Philippines for next year, POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili has announced that the POEA and its counterpart agency in Korea, the Human Resources Development Service (HRD Korea) finally signed the Service Commitment Agreement (SCA) on December 3, which will implement the next EPS-KLT under the renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the DOLE and the Ministry of Labor (MOL) Korea.

Administrator Manalili advises interested jobseekers to Korea to watch out for future advisories relative to EPS-KLT registration dates and venues. In the meantime, she cautions that formal language training is not required. Applicants can browse the POEA (www.poea.gov.ph) or the HRD Korea (<http://.epsklt.hrdkorea.or.kr>) websites for the EPS-KLT Reviewer. This link contains the pool of test questions from where the 50 test items on reading and listening will come from. Those who have taken up prior Korean Language Course may get in touch with the TESDA Language Skills Institute to enrol for a Refresher Course.

Applicants who are not more than 38 years old, preferably males and who have at least one year work experience and not restricted to travel to Korea can pre-register online using the electronic registration also found in the POEA website. They should ensure that their registration account is active by visiting the same every 3 to 6 months.

Under the recently concluded SCA, EPS jobseekers shall pay only US\$17 (equivalent in peso) instead of the US\$30 paid in the previous examinations administered in the Philippines. However, passing the EPS-KLT and the medical examination which are the pre-requisites to qualify for inclusion in the Roster of Jobseekers for EPS will not guarantee employment but will just provide the opportunity to be selected by Korean employers through the POEA and HRD Korea hiring arrangements.###