



NEWS RELEASE
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REGISTRATION ON FOR 6th EPS-KOREAN LANGUAGE TEST (KLT)

Filipinos desiring to work in South Korea's manufacturing sector now have a chance to qualify under the country's Employment Permit System (EPS).

POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili today said that Korea is soon to hold its 6th EPS-Korean Language Test (KLT) through the Human Resource Development Service of Korea, the new test agency accredited by the Korean government to administer the examination. The HRD Korea is expected to announce the official dates of examination by March 29, a much awaited development after both parties reached agreements in implementing the EPS.

In close coordination with HRD Korea, the POEA will conduct registration of applicants for EPS-KLT on April 6 to 8 in designated areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Details of registration will be published shortly.

Registration is open to applicants who are in active status in the POEA online manpower registry as of March 31, 2010. In addition, applicants must be able to meet the minimum qualification requirements before being allowed to take the KLT, and pay a test fee of US\$17 (810 equivalent in peso). The fee was reduced by almost 43% from the US\$30 required during the previous years.

The requirements for registration include: age of not more than 38, at least one year work experience and presentation of valid documents such as passport. Workers with previous record of illegal stay in Korea are cautioned from applying as they will be disqualified and are not eligible for E9 visa category according to Korean rules, Manalili said.

To increase their chances of passing the KLT, those who wish to take the test are reminded to refer to the EPS-KLT Reviewer supplied by HRD/Ministry of Labor of Korea which is likewise accessible at the POEA website. For this year, the HRD Korea has adopted a new qualifying system that allows only those who scored at least 80 points out of 50 test items on reading and listening examination, and who are in the top 3,000 passers, to be included in the Roster of Jobseekers. Previously, the passing score was 120 points.

An applicant who passes the language test and medical examination is qualified to be included in the Roster of Jobseekers from where Korean employers can select their workers. "Being in the roster of pre-qualified applicants, however, is not a guarantee for employment as employers would have specific job requirements in hiring their workers," Manalili emphasized.

The POEA, as the entrusted agency to undertake EPS-KLT registration, will come out with a series of announcement on who are qualified and other pertinent information in its website, www.poea.gov.ph.

Over 21,000 Filipino workers have been deployed under the EPS since August 2004. Basic monthly wages for foreign EPS workers have also undergone adjustment starting from about US\$640 to US\$904 in current job offers.