



**Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration**

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
BFO Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
Website: www.poea.gov.ph E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Hotlines: 722-1144, 722-1155

NEWS RELEASE

8 March 2010

POEA CELEBRATES NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) joins the entire nation in celebrating the National Women's month this March through a number of programs and services available for overseas Filipino workers and its employees.

Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili announced today the launching of a Women's Desk located at the Ground Floor Lobby of the POEA Building and the inauguration of Gender and Development Hearing Rooms at its Adjudication Office at the third floor. The establishment of a special desk dedicated for women seeks to provide free legal assistance and other forms of services to female workers who have complaints relating to employment overseas.

To promote gender sensitivity, women adjudicators are assigned as hearing officers to handle cases of female workers, particularly household service workers and those in the vulnerable categories who may have been victims of abuse, rape and similar incidents. "With this move, our women workers will be able to openly disclose sensitive matters, thus, facilitate the adjudication of cases involving women", Manalili said.

Other women-focused programs are also lined up for the month-long celebration such as free medical services on March 8, forum on cancer awareness seminar on March 23, and entrepreneurship/livelihood training on March 25. The entire calendar of activities including wellness program, film showing with women as the focal theme, livelihood and skills trainings is posted at the POEA website. POEA employees, on the other hand, are also encouraged to avail themselves of a series of wellness programs.

Selected overseas Filipino workers are also scheduled to talk and share their success stories as women in their fields of expertise. Jennifer Evangelista, an internationally acclaimed female welder, served as an inspirational speaker during the kick-off activity on March 8. "It is a triumph to see successful women excel in a male-dominated field like welding, one of the most sought after skills in the construction industry, both local and overseas," the POEA head added.

This distinguished league of women will be featured on March 17 and 24 in the POEA radio program "Hatid Sundo" aired every Wednesday from 10 in the morning till 12 noon over local government stations DZRB and DZRM-AM, and DZRP for overseas broadcast.

A drama on young women exiting through the backdoor or the southern ports and how they were lured into prostitution will also be aired over these radio stations on March 24.

Resource persons from the Bureau of Immigration, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Center for Migrant Advocacy will be invited to discuss the peculiar plight of these women, empower them to make responsible decisions about themselves, and be aware of the available options about their situation.