

Good News
August 10, 2015

Korea increases minimum wage anew in 2017

The Republic of Korea's new minimum wage for all workers, including Filipino workers under the Employment Permit System, has been increased, Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III reported yesterday.

Bello said Korea's Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) has fixed the minimum wage for 2017 at 6,470 won or at US\$ 5.83 per hour, up to 7.3 percent from the current year which is 6,030 won per hour. The minimum wage in South Korea has constantly increased over the years: 7.2 percent in 2014, 7.7 percent in 2015 and 8.1 percent in 2016.

Calculated on a standard of eight (8) working hours a day, the daily minimum wage translates to 51,760 won, 258,800 won for 40 hours per week and at 1,352,230 million won for those who work 209 hours full time in a month. The MOEL said the pay raise will affect an estimated 3.36 million workers in the nation, 17.4 percent of the entire work force, including foreign workers.

Minimum wage in Korea covers all employees as defined in the Labor Standards Act, regardless of their employment status or nationality.

MOEL said about 24,490 Filipino employees in small and medium manufacturing industries, mostly in factories in Korea under the government to government hiring or the Employment Permit System (EPS) shall be covered by next year's new base rate.

Bello said Filipino workers may seek assistance from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office or the nearest job stability center which has jurisdiction over the concerned workers' workplace if their employer failed to pay the prescribed salary.

Korea is one of the Philippines's favored destinations for OFWs because of the demand for foreign workers under the EPS system, especially in labor shortage industries, such as agriculture, stockbreeding, fishery, construction, and manufacturing. /END