



TAIWAN MULLS LOWERING HIRING STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

The Philippine Labor Center (PLC) in Taipei has reported on the plans of Taiwan to lower the hiring standards for teachers of English, including standards for the hiring of foreign intern teachers. The recruitment efforts of Taiwan have failed to attract a substantial number of this category of professionals. According to the Taiwan Ministry of Education (MOE), the problem on the shortage of qualified teachers of English in the elementary and junior schools persists despite agreements forged with native English speaking countries (such as Canada, England and Australia) to engage certified teachers, because these countries are also short of qualified teachers. Under existing regulations of Taiwan, foreign intern teachers are not permitted to teach in Taiwan.

At present, foreign teachers from Western countries receive salaries ranging from NT\$50,000 (US\$1,547) to NT\$60,000 (US\$1,857) per month while Filipino teachers are paid NT\$25,000 (US\$778) per month and an additional NT\$2,000 (US\$62) after two or three months of employment. Free roundtrip transportation and free board and lodging are standard provisions of the employment contract.

With this recent development, the PLC in Taipei sees bright employment opportunities for Filipino teachers of English who wish to work in Taiwan.