

PRESS RELEASE

January 6, 2006

Bright prospects ahead for overseas employment in 2006

Prospects for employment overseas will remain bright as the global labor market continues to offer employment opportunities for Filipino workers, especially skilled workers and professionals in 2006, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said traditional employers like Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Taiwan, Italy, Singapore and Qatar will remain as the country's major source of jobs of OFWs for 2006. She added that new markets such as Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos in the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand, New Caledonia, Africa and Europe will also offer employment opportunities for Filipino workers in the coming year.

Citing report on the Agency's trend analysis and market prospects for 2006, Administrator Baldoz said that the deployment of OFWs in 2006 will surpass the 2005 figure on rising demand for *landbased workers* for the Middle East and Asia, the United States and Canada and in some European countries, coupled with the strong demand for Filipino *seafarers* in the traditional and non-traditional positions.

Administrator Baldoz said that deployment of overseas Filipino workers is seen to increase by 5% over last year's deployment volume, given the new jobs that will be generated from some 140,000 job prospect in the overseas markets in traditional and emerging markets of landbased workers and seafarers and the continuous rehiring of workers who left in 2005.

Labor Attaches in the Middle East estimate about 261, 450 new jobs will be available in the next three years or some 87,150 new jobs each. Around 58,000 jobs will come from the Gulf cooperation countries of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman, particularly in the construction, medical, tourism, retail, energy, O & M and IT sectors, which are experiencing growth and expansion due to major infrastructure projects, expansion of exploration and production of the oil and gas sectors, and privatization efforts of the government.

“Additional 29,000 jobs are also needed in Libya, Jordan and Lebanon for continuous employment in the medical services, hotel, domestic and caregiving services, construction and oil exploration sectors,” she added.

In Asia, Singapore with its liberalized work permit system, will continue to offer employment opportunities for Filipino skilled workers and professionals in the healthcare, ICT, manufacturing, aerospace, engineering, banking and finance, education, tourism and media and advertising sectors; Macau needs hotel and casino workers in the supervisory level; China has a demand for teachers, while Japan’s labor market is open for engineers and IT professionals. The opening for nurses and caregivers is anticipated once the agreement between the Japanese and Philippine governments is forged. India needs about 4,000 commercial pilots in the next 5 years.

About 7,000 jobs will be available for Filipinos in the manufacturing and construction sectors under the Korean Employment Permit System this year.

New markets like New Caledonia will hire some 3,000 Filipino skilled workers and professionals for large-scale mining project in the island. The project is expected to be completed in 2007. The hotel and construction industries in Turks and Caicos are projected to have about 1,500 job vacancies this year. Trinidad and Tobago started to recruit healthcare workers such as nurses, doctors, pharmacist and midwives in 2005. Bahamas and Cayman Islands have a demand for skilled workers such as welders, electricians, carpenters, painters and hotel and restaurant workers.

Owing to aging population, demand for nurses and other health care workers in the US and Canada will continue. The US Dept. of Health and Human Services reported an estimated shortage of 110,000 full time equivalent registered nurses. Canada on the other hand is expected to require some 59,000 to 113,000 nurses up to 2011. The US also needs about 2.8 million teachers up to 2008.

The European Union is considering an immigration scheme for highly qualified migrants with special skills to address skill shortages in the IT, health services and construction sectors in a bid to sustain economic growth of the region.

With all of these developments in the global labor market, migration of Filipino workers is expected to continue in the coming years.

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