

PRESS RELEASE

OEC Processing now available at Pag-IBIG OFW Center

As part of the Pag-IBIG Fund's continuing efforts to improve its services, the agency partnered with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to open an Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) processing desk at the Pag-IBIG OFW Center.

Migrant workers can now apply for their OEC by booking an appointment at www.poea.gov.ph before heading to the processing desk located at the 6th floor of the Pag-IBIG OFW Center housed at the Justine Building along Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Walk-in clients are welcome but priority service is given to those who have scheduled an appointment online.

The strong partnership between the POEA and Pag-IBIG Fund has proved to be a big help to OFW members, as they can now pay their mandatory Pag-IBIG membership contributions at the POEA prior to the release of their OECs. This is the result of the Collection Servicing Agreement both agencies signed in 2011.

The opening of the OEC Processing Desk at the Pag-IBIG OFW Center now makes the center a true one-stop-shop for all OFW-related services and transactions. The Pag-IBIG OFW Center was established in response to the growing needs of OFW members who, while residing in different parts of the Philippines, mostly conduct their deployment-related transactions in Metro Manila. The OFW Center gives the Fund's 3.3 million-strong OFW members an integrated, convenient and seamless service such as membership registration, members' savings remittance and verification, issuance of Transaction Cards, acceptance and release of both short-term loans and housing loans, investment in the Modified Pag-IBIG II Program (MP2) and housing bonds, home matching, as well as the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS). The Pag-IBIG OFW Center also serves as an OFW Resource Center with the help of other government agencies and private organizations.

Meanwhile, 35 lucky OFW members won free round-trip tickets, gift checks and the US\$10,000.00 grand prize in the grand raffle draw of the Fund's "Dagdag Ipon" Raffle Promo last January 8. OFW-members who saved at least P300 monthly with the Fund during the contest period automatically received one raffle entry.

"Sa pamamagitan ng raffle promo, hinihikayat namin ang mga OFWs na mag-impok sa Pag-IBIG ng higit sa P100 na siyang halagang nakasaad sa batas. At nakatutuwa namang lubos ang natanggap naming pagtugon mula sa mga OFW members na nagtaas ng kanilang hinuhulog na buwanang ipon sa Pag-IBIG," said Vice President Jejomar C. Binay, concurrent Chairman of the Pag-IBIG Board of Trustees.

He added, *"Sa katotohanan, wala na nga yatang naghuhulog ng P100 lamang. Ilang OFWs pa nga ang naghulog ng matataas na halaga gaya ng \$3,000 hanggang \$4,000. Katumbas ng mas mataas na buwanang Pag-IBIG savings ang mas mataas na ipon at mas malaking halagang maaaring mahiram sa mga loan programs ng Pag-IBIG."*

"This raffle promo proved effective in instilling a savings culture among our OFW members. Members now see the many benefits available to them when they save more with the Fund, not only by way of dividends but also through higher loanable amounts. *Walang ibang hangarin ang Pag-IBIG Fund kundi makatulong sa mga miyembro sa pagpapatibay ng kanilang pinansyal na pundasyon tungo sa matagumpay na bukas,"* said Pag-IBIG President Atty. Darlene Marie B. Berberabe.

Indeed, through the raffle promo, OFWs are now saving more with Pag-IBIG, with a total of 24,254 OFW members voluntarily saving P300 to P172,000 per month, or an average of P2,231, much higher than the monthly mandatory contribution of P100.