Filipino workers seeking jobs overseas are warned against falling prey to job advertisements found in the internet following the report of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in London on the increase of fraudulent recruitment through this scheme.

The following are some of the schemes used in defrauding the applicants through the internet:

- Sending “appointment letters” to would be victims and asking them to send money to travel agencies to arrange for their travel requirements, including visas.

- Use of mobile phone or e-mail as a means to contact the alleged employer/agent without giving any landline number, or if there is one, the same cannot be contacted.

- Designation of unauthorized third parties or agents, and, as in the case of London, alleged UK immigration officers to process their work permit applications and visas.

- Use of fake and scanned recruitment documents such as Special Power of Attorney, recruitment agreement, manpower request, and business registration papers.

- Use of incorrect employer’s address, post code, telephone, and fax numbers.

- Use of fake website that purportedly contains information about the employer and other details.

To avoid being victimized by these schemes, the following preventive measures must be taken into account by the overseas job applicants using the internet:

- Make sure that the jobs actually exist by checking the website of the employer, the complete address, post code and contact details.

- Be skeptical of employment offers that appear “too good to be true” such as huge salary offer, free accommodation and food, and free use of amenities.

- Do not deal with employers with no verifiable contact details.
- Remember that employers in the United Kingdom do not ask for money or payment from applicants to secure a job, including expenses for work permit and visa applications.

- Applicants must require their employer to send their employment contracts to the POLO in London for the required verification and authentication of the document.

Applicants are advised to report to POEA any illegal recruitment or fraudulent job recruitment through the internet. For further assistance, please contact telephone numbers 7221144 or 7221155 or visit our website at www.poea.gov.ph.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

20 April 2007