HRDK FOCUS ON

Tajikistani Foreign Workers' Arrival in Korea: An Inspiring Start with Self-Chosen Korean Names!

On October 22, the Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRDK) welcomed the first foreign workers from Tajikistan under the Employment Permit System (EPS)*, hosting a "Hangeul Name Tag" ceremony at Incheon International Airport. Upon arrival, E-9* visa workers received personalized Korean name tags, symbolizing their recognition as members of Korean society and their first step toward stable settlement.

* EPS (Employment Permit System): A program that allows SMEs to hire foreign workers from 17 countries to alleviate labor shortages. / * E-9: A non-professional employment visa.

Countries eligible for EPS dispatch (E-9 Visa):
* The Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Cambodia, China, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Myanmar, East Timor, Laos, Tajikistan

Notably, the three incoming workers are the first arrivals from Tajikistan following the government-to-government MOU signed in October 2024, officially designating Tajikistan as the 17th country eligible for dispatch. Their arrival carries particular significance for economic cooperation and bilateral relations between the two nations. To date, HRDK has selected 67 workers using the Foreign Worker Selection Point System,** and more arrivals are expected in the future.

** Foreign Worker Selection Point System: A comprehensive evaluation system that scores applicants based on Korean language ability, skill level, and job competency to create a candidate list for selection.

| 2025 EPS Skills Test: Key Details |

Basic Skills	Newly added industry-specific tasks based on real on-site work Evaluation Tasks Common Task (pin insertion) + Industry-Specific Tasks
Korean Language Interview	Newly implemented industry-specific questions and industry safety evaluation items Evaluation Tasks ❶ Self-introduction and attitude ❷ Basic conversation and following instructions ❸ Using tools and carrying out tasks ❹ NCS basic job competency ❺ Safety awareness
Fitness Evaluation	Newly established to evaluate physical capabilities based on actual activity Evaluation Tasks Grip and back strength + Cardiovascular endurance (burpee test, moving equipment, handcart pushing)
Job Competency Evaluation	Extra points for relevant work experience, qualifications, and training in the applied occupation

Excluded Experience, Qualification, Training

Experience

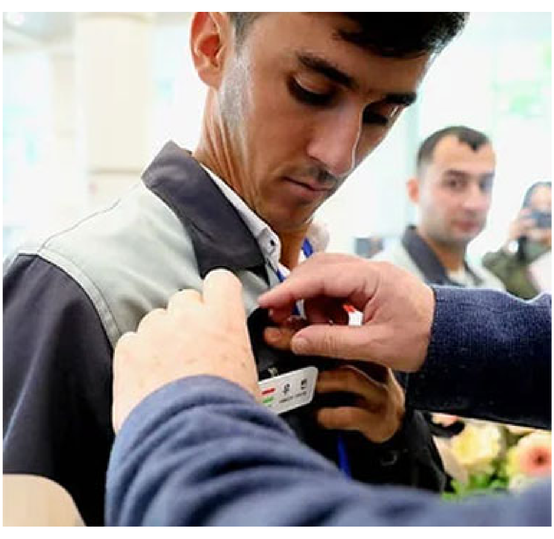
Even if the applicant has worked in a business that performs the relevant industrial activity, unrelated career experience will not be approved as work-related experience (e.g., simple sales, education regarding business management support, government/public agency work).

Qualification

Qualifications (licenses) irrelevant to the industry-specific work are excluded.

Training

Training courses are excluded if their purposes are irrelevant to the details of the work in question.

At the airport, Kirom Salohiddin Amriddinzoda, Tajikistan's Ambassador of Extraordinary to Korea, personally attended to welcome the workers. He stated, "We are delighted that Tajikistani workers are coming to Korea through the EPS program, and we believe they will make a significant contribution to the Korean labor market. I am more than confident that this initiative will also strengthen friendship and human network between our countries."

HRDK plans to provide Hangul name tags to all new E-9 workers from 17 sending countries, beginning with the Tajikistani arrivals on October 22. HRDK President Lee Woo-young stated, "We warmly welcome the first foreign workers from Tajikistan. The employees of HRDK will do their utmost to protect the human rights of foreign workers and foster a culture of mutual respect."