



In a bid to support local job seekers find jobs in foreign-invested companies in Korea, the government has been holding a comprehensive job fair which provides on-site opportunities for attendees to meet with the recruiting staff from the companies. Since 2006, the Job Fair for Foreign-invested Companies has been hosted annually by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) and organized by the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) as the largest national job fair for foreign-invested companies. This year marked the event's 13th year in session, held on June 14 and 15 at COEX in Seoul.

The 13th Job Fair for Foreign-invested Companies 2018 turned out to be the largest yet, participated by 139 foreign-invested companies and attracting about 14,000 job seekers. The event was comprised of one-to-one in-depth interviews, informative sessions on companies and special lectures on the recruitment process.

The job fair was held this year in Hall D of COEX, with the venue categorized into different sections for one-to-one in-depth interviews, R&D, consulting, recruitment support, KOTRA's project promotion, as well as an area to hold the information sessions and special lectures. Company booths were also divided up into sections for their respective, geographical regions, including Asia-Ocean-

MOTIE and KOTRA provide job seekers opportunities to work at foreign enterprises in Korea

ia, Europe and North America.

Out of the participating foreign-invested companies this year, 33 were U.S. companies (24%), 31 Japanese companies (22%), 19 German companies (14%), 10 British companies (7%), and 9 were French companies (6%). Mean-

while, there were 22 Fortune 500 enterprises, including 3M Korea, Siemens and DHL. In terms of industries, there were 58 companies related to the manufacturing sector such as automobile and petrochemical; 31 in the services sector including business consulting and engineering;



and 27 companies in the sales and distribution industries.

Information sessions on foreign-invested corporations took place all day on both days, with 21 global enterprises like Kelly Services, IKEA Korea and Nestle Korea each offering 20 minute talks on their companies. Special lectures covered topics such as the characteristics of foreign companies, TOEIC Speaking, tips and skills for interviews, as well as writing resumes and cover letters.

Some changes were evident in this year's event as compared to the last. Notably, the number of on-site in-depth interviews this year doubled from 2017, with 25 companies conducting such interviews as compared to the 13 last year. This provided greater opportunity for job seekers to successfully land jobs through the event. Additionally, the job fair was held in June this year, much earlier than the usual period in October of each year. Aside from the capital city of Seoul, KOTRA held the Busan Job Fair for Foreign Invested Companies at BEXCO on June 27 with consideration to job seekers residing in rural regions.

*By Grace Park
English Editor
Investment Public Relations Team
Korea Trade-Investment Promotion
Agency (KOTRA)
gracepark@kotra.or.kr*



Success Stories

Here are two examples of how job seekers at last year's event were hired by foreign-invested companies.



Case 1 : “I had always wanted to work at a foreign company because of my inclination for foreign languages, and was aware that KOTRA held these jobs fairs each year. I decided to attend, and there, an HR staff member of a French company in Korea thoroughly explained to me the history of the company as well as the tasks of the job and the qualifications needed. Not too long afterwards, I went in for an interview at the company's headquarters, and ended up being hired. I started off as an intern for three months, then became a regular employee. Now, I enjoy working in an environment where English is the common language and I am able to voice my opinions freely.”

- Kang, hired at a French company in Korea

Case 2 : “I had previously lived in Japan, and so I wanted to work for a Japanese firm where I could use my language skills to my advantage. I was definitely open to the idea of working abroad, but decided to check out the job fair because I knew there would be a lot of global Japanese companies in Korea, too. Since foreign companies tend to hire year-round, I visited various booths of interest to me and handed over my resume to the HR staff there. To my surprise, I received interview requests from a few of those companies, and was eventually hired at one of them.”

- Lee, hired at a Japanese company in Korea