Job Fair for Foreign-Invested Companies 2014 to Be Held

The Office of the Foreign Investment Ombudsman will actively contribute to resolving the skilled labor shortage of foreign-invested companies and creating quality jobs through holding job fairs.

Many foreign-invested companies in Korea need help finding qualified employees. Securing talented workers is not only the key to business success, but also the foundation of a company’s capacity building and technological innovation. Korea’s zeal for education is unparalleled globally. The country’s college admissions rate was 70.7 percent and number one among OECD member states last year. And Korea’s well-established education infrastructure has nurtured quality workers. Nonetheless, relatively low recognition of foreign-invested companies and a lack of information between foreign employers and job seekers have led to a mismatch situation and a severe labor shortage for foreign companies.

The Office of the Foreign Investment Ombudsman (OFIO) has carried out a wide range of projects to preemptively address this labor shortage and create quality jobs. The OFIO is now preparing to hold the Job Fair for Foreign-Invested Companies 2014 next month.

To be held at Seoul’s COEX October 28-29, the job fair will draw about 90 leading foreign-invested companies that will be organized according to the region they’re from: the EU, North America and Asia. There will also be a research and development (R&D) section to support science and engineering talents. The Korea Industrial Technology Association, which runs the R&D Job Placement Center, and the Korea Electronics Technology Institute, which operates the Engineering Talents Development Center, will sponsor the job fair. The National University Recruitment Managers Association will also join the event as a sponsor to help multinational companies in Korea’s provinces recruit highly qualified employees by working closely with the recruiting support centers of local universities. In addition, corporate presentation seminars and sessions on corporate social responsibility will help foreign companies promote themselves to job seekers.

The 9th annual job fair has been gaining popularity since first being held in 2006 and serving as a bridge between foreign enterprises and job seekers. About 17,000 job seekers visited last year, with some being recruited on the spot. This year’s job fair is expected to draw a positive response from job seekers as well. It will serve as an opportunity for foreign-invested companies to secure talented manpower and expand their corporate social responsibility activities. For more information on the fair, please visit www.jobfairic.org. If you have questions about participating in it, please send them to jf@kotra.or.kr.

In addition to the job fair, the OFIO has held On-Campus Recruiting for Foreign-Invested Companies Expos in recent years. They have centered on major universities in local provinces, the aim being to join the Korean government’s efforts to create jobs and help foreign-invested companies find qualified employees. The expos have offered students and graduates of universities in regions outside of Seoul the opportunity to work for global enterprises. The OFIO held four On-Campus Recruiting Expos in collaboration with local governments in the first half of the year: at Sun Moon University in Chungnam Province, Yeungnam University in Yeongnam Province, Chonbuk National University in Chonbuk Province and Pusan National University in Busan. In the second half of the year, the OFIO will hold the recruiting expo at Chungbuk National University, in Chungbuk Province.

Korea’s foreign-invested companies employed 510,000 people in 2012, accounting for 6 percent of the country’s employment. With job creation being the top policy priority, the government has expanded incentives for foreign investment that contributes to job creation. The OFIO will carry out various projects to help global companies and job seekers find each other and, in doing so, help foreign companies lay a solid foundation for business success and corporate capacity building.

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