



# International Domestic Workers Federation

[www.idwfed.org](http://www.idwfed.org)

*The IDWF is affiliated to the IUF and WIEGO.*



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Statement in support of POEA Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac by International Domestic Workers Federation**

(Hong Kong, July 17, 2015) The International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF), based in Hong Kong, representing a membership of over 300,000 domestic and household workers from 56 affiliates in 45 countries, including thousands of Filipino migrant domestic workers, affirms its strong support of Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac in upholding and protecting the rights of Filipino migrant workers through effective regulation and monitoring of recruitment agencies and deployment of Overseas Filipino Workers.

We have worked with Administrator Cacdac and recall that as an Undersecretary of the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment, he successfully chaired the ILO Plenary Committee on Decent Work for Domestic Workers that deliberated on the provisions of the landmark ILO Convention 189 for Decent Work for domestic workers that sets the universally-accepted minimum standards of protection for all domestic workers- and is now recognized as work. This was a landmark and historic achievement not only for domestic workers, but also the entire labour movement worldwide.

Now as Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, we are aware of his campaign targeting disreputable recruitment agencies who have repeatedly victimized Filipino migrant workers, particularly vulnerable migrant domestic workers and other low-skilled workers. He has carried out on-the-spot inspections of recruitment offices and crackdowns against unscrupulous agencies; Promoted ethical recruitment and now re-opened debates on the Private Recruitment Agency Convention, ILO Convention 181, with the slant to ratification of the Convention; Engaged more actively and effectively, in the campaign against illegal recruitment and in combatting human trafficking. The campaign being waged by Administrator Cacdac, has had a great impact on our members, hence we support these initiatives to its fruition.

We are also aware of the campaign of these unscrupulous recruitment agencies in cahoots with their foreign counterparts to unseat and deter Administrator Cacdac in pursuing its mandate to uphold and protect the rights of Filipino migrant workers.

We call on the Philippine President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, to look closely on the motives of these recruitment agencies, seeking the removal from office of Administrator Cacdac. Welfare and protection of migrant workers should have primacy over profits of these private recruitment agencies.

Carry on Admin Cacdac, You're on the right track!

Myrtle Witbooi, President and  
Elizabeth Tang, General Secretary of the International Domestic Workers Federation