

FACTS and FIGURES

OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of China; Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan; Taipei, China

NATIONALITY: Taiwanese

CAPITAL: Taipei

GOVERNMENT: Multiparty Democracy

NATIONAL DAY: October 10



LAND AREA: 35,980 sqkm. (larger than Cagayan Valley)

LOCATION: Lies in the western Pacific Ocean

TERRAIN: Eastern two-thirds mostly rugged mountains; flat to gently rolling plains in west

CLIMATE: May to September: Summer (warm & humid, 28° C); October to March: Mild Winter

(16° C to 20° C)

NATURAL HAZARDS: Earthquakes and typhoons

POPULATION: 23,071,779 (As of July 2011)

PEOPLE: Taiwanese (including Hakka): 84%; Mainland Chinese: 14%; Indigenous: 2%.

LANGUAGES: Mandarin Chinese

RELIGION: Tao Buddhism (the most popular); Taoism; Catholicism; Protestantism; and others

WORKING WEEK: Office: 8-9AM to 4-5 PM, Monday to Friday; Bank Hours: 9AM to 3.30PM, Monday to Friday; Shop Hours: 10-11AM to 9-10AM, all week.

CURRENCY: Taiwan Dollar (TWD), Exchange Rate: 1 TWD = 1.453200 PHP (As of August 2011)

COUNTRY DIALING CODE: + 886

INTERNET COUNTRY CODE: .tw

TIME DIFFERENCE: same time with the Philippines



REMINDERS: Living in TAIWAN

- Respect Taiwanese tradition, customs, practices and strictly observe all laws and regulations.
- It is always appreciated if you compliment the health of an elderly person.
- Try not to be discouraged by the lack of personal warmth in Taiwanese culture.
- Remain calm and composed at all times and do not display your emotions.
- The Taiwanese point with an open hand as pointing with a finger is socially unacceptable. Beckoning to someone is done with a palm facing down. Avoid beckoning with your index finger facing up.
- Never touch the hand of another person's child as there is a belief that this may damage the child.
- Feet are considered filthy in this culture and should not touch things or people.
- Winking at someone, even as innocent and friendly gesture of acknowledgement is considered unacceptable.
- If a Taiwanese person gives you a compliment, it is polite to deny graciously. Modesty is highly valued in Taiwan.
- Do learn a few words of Chinese. This shows an interest in your host's language and culture. It is also very good icebreaker.

Mga impormasyon ukol sa bansang pupuntahan na dapat mong malaman.

1. Kultura, kaugalian, relihiyon, tradisyon at wika.
2. Batas ng bansa na may kinalaman sa OFWs.
3. Mapa at pangunahing mga lugar.
4. Klima o mga panahon at mga pagbabago sa buhay dahil sa panahon. Pagbabago ng uri ng damit, gamit at mga gawain.
5. Lugar na tutuluyan, address at telepono
6. Mga pagkain at mga di-kinakain.
7. Mga samahan at ahensya na maaaring makatulong sa OFW.

REMINDERS: Work Information

- Foreign workers are covered by the **Taiwan Labor Standards Law**, *except* Household Service Workers (e.g. caretakers and domestic helpers). The HSWs are protected by the provisions of their employment contracts.
- The cumulative working period in Taiwan is 9 years only. After their 9th year, foreign workers, including OFWs are not qualified to return to work in Taiwan.
- There is a "brokerage system" in Taiwan. There are Taiwan manpower agencies (TMA) that collect Brokers'/Service Fee every month in exchange for certain services.
- OFWs are required to submit a Foreign Workers' Affidavit for Wages/Salary and Expenses incurred for Entry to ROC to Work (Fees and Salary Declaration). This includes all the fees that are paid by the workers. These fees are not reflected in the Employment Contract of the workers.
- OFWs must undergo a mandatory medical examination within 3 days from arrival and within 30 days before or after the 6th, 18th, and 30th month of employment.
- OFWs must Apply for Alien Residence Certificate (ARC). Employer has to apply for the worker's Work Permit.
- OFWs must **PAY**, through monthly deductions, income taxes, labor insurance (*except HSWs*), National Health Insurance share (NHI) and broker's fee .

PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT: Blacklisting of OFW, Face legal case, Incarceration /Detention, and Immediate Deportation

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- It is illegal for employer to keep the worker's passport, ARC, and money.
- Have the original copy of your marriage contract and birth certificate of children for tax exemption.
- Worker cannot change employer or job without the approval of the Council of Labor Affairs.