

**AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (PH-KR SSA)**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What is the PH-KR SSA all about and how will it be beneficial for OFWs in Korea?	The PH-KR SSA aims to promote mutual cooperation between the Philippines and Korea in the field of social security and to ensure the protection of social security rights for the benefit and welfare of the respective nationals of both countries.
2. What will happen once the PH-KR SSA is implemented?	Once implemented, the PH KR SSA shall provide the following features that are beneficial to OFWs in Korea: a. <i>Equality of Treatment</i> - a covered Filipino, including his/her dependents and survivors, shall be eligible for social security benefits under the same conditions as a Korean national in KR; b. <i>Export of Benefits</i> - a covered person shall continue to receive his/her benefits wherever he/she decides to reside (PH or KR); c. <i>Totalization of Insurance Periods</i> - Contribution/ creditable insurance periods in both countries may be added (excluding overlaps) to determine qualification for benefits; and d. <i>Mutual Administrative Assistance</i> - covered members or beneficiaries may file their claims with the designated liaison agencies of PH and KR, which shall accordingly extend assistance to facilitate processing of claims.
3. Will Filipino EPS workers still be covered under KR NPS?	Yes. The social security coverage of OFWs in Korea will remain under the KR National Pension Service (NPS).
4. Will there be transfer of contributions from KR NPS to PH SSS?	No. There will be no transfer of contributions from the KR NPS to the PH SSS.
5. Can Filipino EPS workers still be entitled to lumpsum refund upon leaving Korea?	Yes. OFWs in KR will still be given an option to refund their contributions from the KR NPS at the end of their contract under the same conditions granted to KR nationals.
6. Can the refunded contributions from KR NPS still be used for totalization of insurance periods?	No. The refunded or withdrawn contributions from the KR NPS can no longer be used for determining eligibility in totalizing the insurance periods in the PH and KR.
7. What will happen if an OFW decides not to withdraw his/her lumpsum refund from the KR NPS?	Under KR NPS policy, application for lumpsum refund is allowed within a 5-year prescriptive period upon entitlement. Thus, OFWs are given this period of time to decide if they opt to file their lumpsum refund or leave their

	<p>contributions in KR NPS. Another option for re-application for lumpsum refund is provided within 10 years after reaching age 60.</p> <p>If ever OFWs decide not to file for lumpsum refund, their remaining contributions in KR NPS may entitle them for a pro-rated pension upon reaching retirement age provided they have sufficient contributions (excluding overlapping periods) in PH SSS that can be considered for totalization of insurance periods.</p>
<p>8. If the lumpsum refund will still be retained for Filipino EPS workers, why is there a need to establish the PH-KR SSA?</p>	<p>The PH-KR SSA is not just an agreement that allows lumpsum refund to be granted to OFWs under the same conditions granted to Korean nationals, but it also serves as a legally binding instrument that provides a basis for OFWs in Korea to access the standard features and benefits under the Agreement (Equality of Treatment, Export of Benefits, Totalization of Insurance Periods, Mutual Administrative Assistance).</p>
<p>9. Suppose an OFW has completed the minimum contribution/period of coverage under both pension systems in the PH and KR to qualify for benefit, will the worker be entitled to receive benefits under both countries/systems?</p>	<p>Yes. OFWs who have completed the minimum qualifying conditions for both systems shall be entitled to receive benefits under the social security schemes of PH and KR.</p>
<p>10. How will OFWs file and receive their Korean benefit claim if they have already returned in the PH?</p>	<p>OFWs may file their Korean benefit claim through the concerned unit of the SSS (to be undertaken by International Operations Group), being one of the designated liaison agencies under the PH-KR SSA. There is no need for OFWs to travel back to Korea just to file their benefit claim.</p> <p>Upon settlement, benefits from the KR NPS can be received by OFWs through their PH local bank account via overseas remittance.</p>