



Various efforts are underway to prevent illegal stays in South Korea

1. ETA system for short-term visitors is under discussion at the national assembly.

Due to rapid increase of illegal immigrants in the recent years, the Legislation and Judiciary Committee is in legislative process of ETA (Electronic Travel Authorization) system for short-term visitors to South Korea.

The exact start date of implementation and range of eligible applicants of this new system is not released yet. PFR will send out updates when more details are available.

2. More strict requirements for Vietnamese coming to South Korea on package tours.

Until 22 November 2019	Effective From 25 November 2019
Photocopies of bank statement.	Original bank passbooks showing that they have savings at least USD 5,000 which has been in the account for at least one month at the time of submission.

This update is to prevent exploitation of visa requirements after many of Vietnamese tourists illegally stay and work in South Korea in the recent years. It is in the same line with 'Guarantee System for Studying Abroad Expenses' which was introduced in the end of October this year.

More than 10,000 Vietnamese students ended up in irregular immigrants in the recent 3 years and the number of identified illegal Vietnamese workers in South Korea as of July 2019 was more than 2,100.

3. South Korea and Thailand signed MOU to deepen bilateral cooperation on preventing illegal Thai migrants in South Korea.

Under the MOU signed by South Korea's Ministry of Justice and Thailand's Ministry of Labor, the two countries plan to share information on illegal Thai migrants and brokers in South Korea and will also run campaigns in Thailand to encourage legal immigration.

This MOU has been signed by the two nations during the summit between South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held in Busan on November 25-26.



Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team:



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