

## **BLR, ILS Visit Korea for International Benchmarking of Multi-Employer Bargaining Practices**



The Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) and the Institute for Labor Studies (ILS) went to Korea on 23-26 October 2019 for the benchmarking of multi-employer bargaining practices.

The BLR and ILS are currently conducting a research project on multi-employer bargaining which is part of a three-year workplan of the Department that seeks to promote a more centralized and inclusive form of collective bargaining, with the end view of increasing the number of workers covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs).

The research project have three major components divided into two phases namely: (1) forum-workshop for the first phase; (2) international benchmarking; and presentation of findings for the second phase. The BLR and ILS is already on the second phase of the research project, which involves validating the proposed framework for strengthening multi-employer bargaining by looking at country-specific laws and practices.

South Korea has been identified for benchmarking based on the following parameters: (1) existing laws on collective bargaining; (2) established multi-employer bargaining practices; (3) countries that are newly exploring multi-employer bargaining; and (4)

signed and/or registered CBAs using multi-employer bargaining as a means of negotiation.

Ms. Glorializa Delos Santos of the BLR and Ms. Joyce Lumactud of the ILS interviewed Korea Labor Foundation CEO Lee Jung Sik and Research Fellow Lee Jeong Hee regarding Korean Industrial Relations. They also met with Labor Attache Maya Valderrama and Ambassador Wong to further gather insights on their research.

**END/Kim Margarette B. Martinez**