



### NEW REGULATIONS ON FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS IN SINGAPORE LIKELY TO FAVOR FILIPINOS

The Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has recently announced the following new regulations governing the employment of foreign domestic workers in the city-state:

- Beginning January 2005, newly hired domestic workers must at least be **23 years of age** and must have completed 8 years of formal education with documentary proof thereof; and
- Effective April 2005, newly hired domestic workers must pass a compulsory test within 3 days from the date of arrival in Singapore. The test, which comprises 40 questions in English and which must be finished in half an hour, aims to determine the domestic worker's basic knowledge in housekeeping, care-giving, work permit regulations, safety awareness and basic mathematics. A worker who failed the test would immediately be repatriated back to her country of origin. Domestic workers already working in Singapore need not take the test.

The Post believes that the new regulation would not adversely affect Filipino domestic workers because of their educational attainment, which is above the MOM requirement. The new regulation would likely give Filipino domestic workers an advantage over their foreign counterparts in view of their higher educational qualification over them. The trial test conducted by the MOM to newly arrived domestic workers with more than 8 years of education showed Filipinos registering an almost 100% passing rate as compared to the other foreign domestic helpers who took the test.

Source: POLO Report, December 2004

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**Mr. Victor R. Fernandez, Jr.**  
President  
Philippine Association of Service  
Exporters Inc. (PASEI)  
G/F David Building 1  
567 Shaw Boulevard  
Mandaluyong City

Dear **Mr. Fernandez:**

May we provide you copy of the entry test sample questionnaires for foreign domestic workers sent to us by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Singapore on the new regulations governing the employment of foreign domestic workers in that city-state. Also attached is the corresponding market update for your reference.

We hope you find these materials useful in determining your prospective applicant's knowledge of basic English to ensure their passing of the entry test.

Warm regards.

Very truly yours,

**Carmelita S. Dimzon**  
Deputy Administrator  
and Officer-in-Charge

