



## **INDIA'S SHORTAGE OF COMMERCIAL PILOTS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGNERS**

The Philippine Embassy in New Delhi has reported that India faces a shortage of commercial pilots due to the rapid growth in the country's aviation industry. India has 900 licensed pilots, but most of them have yet to register the required 1,500 hours of flying experience in order to be qualified to command an aircraft.

The boom in India's airline industry in the past three years has witnessed the increase in the private airlines operating in the country. The Indian government estimates that close to 500 commercial pilots would be needed by the country's airline industry in the next four years. The Center for Asia Pacific Aviation, however, estimated that India would need up to 4,000 extra pilots over the next five years.

India's shortage of commercial pilots is an opportunity that the Philippines can take advantage of provided training of Filipino pilots is upgraded to suit the demands of flying new planes equipped with new technologies, as produced by Boeing and Airbus. In order to maintain the competitive advantage of Filipino pilots, it is important that skills of Filipino pilots, as well as those still enrolled in flight academies in the Philippines, be up to date to the continuously evolving aviation technology.