



NEW IMMIGRATION AND LABOR MARKET POLICIES IN IRELAND ANNOUNCED

The Philippine Embassy in the United Kingdom announced recently the new immigration and labor market policies of Ireland following its bilateral meetings with officials of the Republic of Ireland during the Consular Outreach Program in Dublin on March 24-26, 2006:

- The issuance of work permits to dependent spouses of overseas Filipino workers in Ireland. This new immigration policy is a positive move that will usher in the reunification of many Filipino families in Ireland. Prior to this, dependent spouses could not find work in Ireland discouraging many Filipinos to bring their spouses and dependent children there.
- The healthcare workers in Ireland will be allowed to take an adaptation program for nursing in a training hospital, provided they pass the standards set by the Irish Nursing Board. **This new scheme would benefit about 2,000 Filipino caregivers in Irish nursing homes who have been classified as under-board nurses.**
- **The Employment Permits Bill of 2005** will be enacted into law by July 2006. The bill will essentially provide a system where highly skilled workers will be granted residence status in just two (2) years. The guidelines of the **Irish Immigration and Residence Bill of 2005**, which codify Irish policies on immigration, will be issued once the Employment Permits Bill has been enacted into law.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) believes that the impact of the two bills will be known when the respective implementing guidelines are released. The over-all objective of the two bills is to entitle migrants to the same rights and privileges as the Irish people, except the right of suffrage.

With these new developments, Ireland will continue to be a lucrative place for Filipino professionals and highly skilled workers with assured social and legal rights as properly documented workers or as immigrants.

Source: Philippine Embassy, UK
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