



HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG IMMIGRANTS IN NORWAY

The Philippine Embassy in Stockholm had reported that Norway has a high unemployment rate among immigrants despite a booming economy. Based on a new study conducted by the research firm MMI, the study disclosed that the unemployment situation would not likely improve.

The study reported that 94 per cent of Norwegian companies had no plans of recruiting workers who have migrated to Norway or who were not ethnic Norwegians. Only 20 per cent of company managers said they had a goal of diversifying the workplace by employing more immigrants or people of non-Norwegian background. A full 70 per cent of companies surveyed said they were not interested in receiving counseling on how they could attract immigrant workers. The study also indicated that large companies seemed more willing to employ more immigrants than smaller companies.

Director Sigrun Vageng of the Norwegian Employers Association (NHO) was not surprised by the results of the study. She believed that it was important for company management to recruit the most qualified person regardless of their ethnic background.

The employment rate in Norway for migrants (55.6 per cent in 2003) remained lower than that for the population at large (64.9 per cent), though the difference has decreased significantly since the early 1990's.

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