



NEW GREEN CARD SYSTEM EASES ENTRY OF FOREIGN PROFESSIONALS IN DENMARK

A new green card system similar to the green card system of the United States and Canada will make it easier for skilled foreign professionals to enter and work in Denmark.

The Danish government and the Danish People's Party signed on June 2006 an agreement that will allow highly qualified manpower from the non-EU countries to obtain jobs in Denmark. **The agreement will implement the green card system that will allow foreign workers with specialized skills to go to Denmark and reside in the country of up to six months while looking for a job.**

The green card system is a points system, whereby applicants earn points according to the following criteria:

- Education
- Language Ability
- Work Experience
- Salary
- Age

A score of 80 points earns an applicant a six month work and residency permit so he can find a job in Denmark. If the foreign national does not find a job within six months, the extended work application visa expires and he has to leave Denmark. However, the criteria for earning points will continuously be adjusted against the background of the experiences from the system and the need for workers.

To be able to gain permanent residency in Denmark, workers will be required to find a permanent job in areas where there is a shortage of qualified manpower and earn a salary exceeding 450,000 DKK or approximately US\$70,000 per annum. The skills shortage in Denmark are IT specialists, engineers, and physicians.

Source: Philippine Embassy Stockholm
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