



POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OFWs IN GUAM

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam has reported on the possible employment for OFWs in Guam on the U.S. marines relocation project from Okinawa to Guam which will start in 2010.

According to Capt. Robert Lee, Director of the Guam Joint Program Office, the unit tasked to prepare Guam and the Northern Marianas for the U.S. marines relocation project, construction work for the military build-up will start in 2010 and the actual relocation of 8,000 U.S. marines from Okinawa to Guam will begin in the latter part of 2012. This will include completion of housing and other infrastructural facilities needed for the relocation. The major issue of the relocation is Guam's shortage of **skilled workers**, which will need an estimate of 12,000 to 15,000 workers to work on military-related projects. In addition, Capt. Lee said that his group is taking appropriate measures to get a special exemption for the foreign workers that will come to Guam.

Guam officials have cited that plans are being considered to provide full authority to award the recruitment contracts to sub-contractors. The sub-contractors shall, in turn, take charge of directly undertaking the recruitment efforts, for the construction industry and other sectors of Guam's economy (such as the education, health and services sectors) and society, that will be affected by the growth and development resulting from the military build-up. Pending the submission of the environment impact statement that is being required under the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act, and until the decision on the relocation project is signed by the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Navy, no contract yet can be the subject of bids and awards.

Guam Governor Felix Camacho also stressed that his government will ensure that foreign workers who will be recruited to Guam have the necessary qualifications for the jobs and that they will not be exploited by unscrupulous recruitment agents who ask for placement fees that are higher than what is allowed by the law.