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COMPLETION OF SIX MONTHS ON SITE JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR FILIPINO CANDIDATE-NURSES AND CAREGIVERS

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The entry of Filipino candidate nurses and caregivers continues on its second year of implementation, under the Economic Partnership Agreement between Philippines and Japan.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), which implements this component of the JPEPA, has been informed by its counterpart agency, the Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS), that there are 168 job vacancies (63 for nurses and 105 for caregivers) from 75 Japanese health and caregiving institutions, as of 12 January 2010.

According to JICWELS, about 60% of the hospitals and nearly 80% of the caregiving facilities put emphasis on the ages of the candidates. Further, more than 70% of the employers wish to employ candidates from ages 20 to 35 years old.

Based on feedbacks received from the candidates who underwent the language training, it is an advantage for applicants to possess basic knowledge and understanding of the Japanese language.

The POEA has started the notification of qualified applicants through email and phone advices for interview by early February 2010. The list of pre-qualified applicants for nurses and caregivers is also available at the POEA website. www.poea.gov.ph.

Candidate-nurses to be hired shall first complete a six month onsite Japanese language training and thereafter undergo on-the-job training at their respective hospitals. They should be able to pass the licensure examination in Japan before they can work as registered nurses. They have three chances to take the nursing licensure examination.

Candidate-caregivers, on the other hand, shall initially complete a six month onsite language training and work on-the-job for at least three years before they can take the national examination for caregivers to be able to work in Japan indefinitely.

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