



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Employment prospects for OFWs in 2008**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said overseas employment prospects for Filipinos will still be bright in 2008 as it lines up opportunities for OFWs in various parts of the world.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz reported that the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman will continue to offer vast employment opportunities in the construction, medical, tourism, retail, energy, engineers and planners, telecommunications operation and maintenance, hotel and restaurant and IT sectors.

In Saudi Arabia alone, major companies like Saudi Aramco and Saudi Basic Industries will require more than 30,000 engineers and 200,00 construction workers until 2010 to work on US\$95 million worth of projects.

South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Brunei, and Malaysia will continue induce steady increase in the demand of foreign workers such professionals and skilled workers in construction and ship building sectors, factory workers, IT and healthcare workers, managers and supervisors in hotel and gaming industry sectors, casino workers and entertainers, architects, engineers and draftsmen, and nurses.

Australia and New Zealand will have demand for construction, health, IT professionals, and skilled workers in trades, teachers and hotel and restaurant workers.

Americas and Trust Territories will offer jobs for construction, health and IT professionals and skilled workers, hotel and restaurant workers, teachers, oil and gas workers due to labor shortages in the developed economies of Canada and USA, and the growing economies of Guam and the Caribbean.

There will be employment opportunities for construction, health, IT professionals and skilled workers, hotel and food service

workers in Europe particularly in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Finland, Belgium, Iceland, Romania, Czech Republic, and Azerbaijan.

Romania which experiences labor shortages needs roughly 150,000 construction workers at present. About 3,000 health care workers will be needed in Norway possibly in the next three years.

The Italian government has decided to increase from 3,000 to 5,000 the annual quota of Filipino who will be admitted as non-seasonal workers for her country.

The POEA also reported that the demand for Filipino seafarers will increase with the continued hiring of shipping employers from Cyprus, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, UK, USA, Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Japan.

Japanese ship owners intend to source 8,000 out of 10,000 new requirements for seafarers, on-board Japanese owned vessels.

Due to fleet expansion, Italian cruise operators intend to hire more than 1,600 shipboard personnel in 2008.

Norwegian ship owners will need about 3,000 Filipino officers and ratings for their fleet expansion starting 2008.

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