



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Recruitment of nurses and caregivers for Japan to start soon**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), announced that the recruitment of Filipino nurses as candidate-*kangoshi* and caregivers as candidate-*kaigofukushishi* to Japan, under the JPEPA Framework for the Movement of Natural Persons, shall start immediately this year.

This was disclosed by POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili, after the implementing agreement covering the entry of nurses and caregivers was signed between the POEA and the Japan International Corporation for Welfare Services (JICWELS) on 12 January 2009. The signing came at the heels of the entry into force of the Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the Philippines (JPEPA) on 11 December 2008.

This hiring program shall commence with initial recruitment of a limited number of applicants (200 nurses and 300 caregivers) to be endorsed by POEA to JICWELS which shall match the applicants with hospitals and institutions in Japan pre-qualified to receive Philippine candidates. Entry of Filipino candidate-nurses and candidate-caregivers to Japan is targeted by the end of April 2009 or early May.

Selected candidate-nurses and candidate-caregivers for Japan shall undergo a 6-month language and culture course in Japan before they commence actual work with their respective employers. During the 6-month period for language training, the candidates shall receive allowance of not less than 40,000 yen per month.

The language training shall help the candidates prepare for the Japanese licensure examination. They have 3 chances within 3 years in the case of candidate-nurses, and once on the 4<sup>th</sup> year of stay in the case of candidate-caregivers.

Before obtaining their qualifying as full-fledged nurses in Japan, candidate-nurses shall work under the supervision of a Japanese *Kangoshi* to fully familiarize them with the Japanese system and shall be covered by a fully transparent employment contract. During their employment, Filipinos shall receive the same salaries equivalent to what Japanese nurses and caregivers receive, based on similar tasks and qualifications.

After passing the licensure or certification examinations, fully qualified nurses and certified caregivers shall have the option to stay for an unlimited period in Japan to practice their profession based on new and upgraded employment contracts with their employers.

POEA invites qualified applicants to visit its website [www.poea.gov.ph](http://www.poea.gov.ph) for more guide information and to register online through [www.eregister.poea.gov.ph](http://www.eregister.poea.gov.ph), and to submit their filled-out application forms in any of the POEA regional offices. The POEA's central and regional offices also shall hold pre-recruitment briefing sessions on the recruitment scheme for candidate-nurses and candidate-caregivers to Japan.

Candidate-nurses should be registered nurses, with at least 3 years experience, while candidate caregivers should be graduates of 4-year course and TESDA-certified or graduates of a nursing course. Applicants will be required to undergo an aptitude test and interview by JICWELS to facilitate their matching with employers. Qualified applicants may undergo several steps of matching with employers during which they could indicate their own preferences for employment to ensure the transparency of the terms of employment offers and to promote best employment-fit. After selection, they must pass the required medical examination to conclude the employment contract and to successfully qualify to enter Japan.

Nominal expenses of application shall be borne by the applicants for document submission/authentication, medical examination (*P1,500 basic*) and visa fee (*P1,150*). Airfare and onsite training costs are shouldered by the employers or the Government of Japan. **###**

