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India bars non-technical foreign workers

Expatriates can get employment visas in India only if they are hired for highly skilled jobs with an annual salary of more than US\$25,000.

In a report to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the Department of Foreign Affairs said the Indian Home Ministry has invalidated a Labour Ministry circular which allows the employment of “one per cent foreigners among the total work force in any project composed of 5-10 people”.

In addition, the Home Ministry clarified that employment visa shall not be granted for routine jobs with qualified Indian nationals such as secretaries and clerks.

The condition of the US\$25,000 annual income limit will not apply to ethnic cooks, language teachers (other than English teachers), and to those working for the foreign embassies in India.

Some 1,010 Filipino workers are presently employed in India in the professional, medical and technical fields. In 2008, a total of 1,482 Filipino nationals were in India as permanent residents, temporary and irregular workers.###