



NEWS RELEASE

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First group of Filipino nurses and caregivers under JPEPA off to Japan

The first batch of 273 health workers (93 candidate-nurses and 180 candidate-caregivers) left for Japan yesterday (10 May 2009), barely four months after the JPEPA Implementing Agreement on the Movement of Natural Persons was signed,

They shall initially undergo onsite language and culture training for six (6) months in the five (5) designated language institutions in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, and Hiroshima before starting to acquire necessary knowledge and skills at the respective hospitals or care facilities through work and training in Japan.

Through the Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS), the counterpart organization of POEA, 134 Japanese institutions and facilities hired 92 Filipino nurses and 188 caregivers. Of the 450 health workers limit set by the Japanese government, a total of 366 vacancies were actually made available.

Another group of 10 workers who were exempted from the 6-month Japanese language training in Japan because of their proficiency, is scheduled to depart on 31 May 2009.

POEA and JICWELS, in close cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Embassy of Japan followed the tight schedule to immediately deploy the Filipino health workers to enable the candidate nurses to take the first chance of Kangoshi licensure examination set for February 2010. Candidate-caregivers, on the other hand, need at least three (3) years of work experience in Japan before taking the national certification examination for Kaigofukushishi. Those who will pass the examination can work in Japan continuously. ###