



GERMANY OPEN TO HIGHLY QUALIFIED MIGRANT WORKERS

As Germany expands its labor market, it will keep its doors open to highly qualified migrants but will strictly enforce the law for low skilled labor illegally entering its borders, sounding off a fair warning to migrants, including Filipinos.

During the 27-day Summer Academy on Freedom and Responsibility in Media held recently in Hamburg and Berlin, Germany, the topic on 7.8 million foreign nationals living and working in Germany came up as the national representative of Kirchenasyl (Asylum in Churches) explained to mostly Asian and African participants how the country wants to expand its labor market without neglecting its migration policy.

Germany's preferences according to the speaker are for highly skilled workers rather than the low skilled labor migrants who choose to enter Germany through unlawful means. Most of the illegal entrants who violate the regular process end up being deported or detained. While the German Economy Minister called for the easing up of the law to address its labor needs, the proposal was rejected by their Chancellor Angela Merkel, saying that there was no need to modify the law controlling migrant workers, which took effect in January last year.

Germany's Education Minister and business leaders also called for opening of doors to skilled immigrants to boost their economy. German economic experts warned that in the next 14 years, Germany will be in need of more than 200,000 technicians, engineers, and even scientists.