

Global BRIEF



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JULY 2005

VOLUME I: No. 6

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QATAR: IN-FLIGHT IMMIGRATION SERVICES NOW OFFERED THROUGH THE SUMMER

As a first in the Middle East, Qatar Airways is offering immigration services on board its flights to Cairo, to assist them with the speedy process of immigration formalities prior to arrival in the Egyptian capital.

All Qatar Airways flights operating from Doha to Cairo until August 15 2005 will have a high-ranking Egyptian immigration officer onboard to stamp passengers' passports in flight.

The entry clearance procedures prior to arrival in Cairo have been introduced to cope with the summer rush. On arrival at the Cairo International Airport, passengers will not have to line up at immigration desks.

On the return sector from Cairo to Doha, Egyptian immigration officials will sit alongside Qatar Airways check-in staff and provide passport exit stamps to avoid passengers lining up at immigration counters when leaving the country.

Source:<http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/>

NEW ZEALAND: IMMIGRATION PROGRAM MET FOR 2005.

The Immigration Minister advised that the government has met its immigration program objectives for the 2004/05 financial year.

The objective had been 45,000 new residents, with an allowance to approve an additional 5,000 if necessary.

A total of 48,815 people were granted residency under the New Zealand Immigration Programme (NZIP). Of these, 29,826 were approved under Skilled/Business immigration categories, including the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC).

UGANDA: DUAL CITIZENSHIP NOW PERMITTED BUT SAME SEX MARRIAGE CRIMINALIZED

The Ugandan Parliament unanimously approved dual citizenship for Ugandans and non-Ugandans on July 8, 2005.

This was during consideration of clauses of The Constitutional (Amendment) (No.3), Bill, 2005.

The Bill allows a citizen of Uganda of 18 years and older who voluntarily acquired citizenship of another country, to retain the citizenship of Uganda.

It also allows a person who acquires Ugandan citizenship to retain citizenship of his birth country.

In the same session Parliament adopted an amendment that criminalizes same-sex marriage. The amendment reads "*Marriage between people of the same sex is prohibited under this constitution.*"

IRELAND: GREEN CARDS FOR SKILLED WORKERS

The Irish government has introduced a bill to be debated in the fall for awarding US-style green cards to skilled immigrant workers in order to protect them better and ensure the country's economy continues growing.

Of the more interesting provisions in the Employment Permits Bill are:

- 1) The Minister can establish the number of employment permits in total and by sector, and to identify the skills and employment categories for work permits, and
- 2) The work permit will be granted to the employee rather than to the employer.

ISRAEL: ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED TO "GET STRICT" ON IMMIGRATION

The Minister of the Interior appointed an advisory committee to examine Israel's immigration laws.

The committee's task is "to propose an immigration policy for the State of Israel, to examine the relevant legislation including the Law of Return, the Citizenship Law and the Israel Entry Law, and to look into the procedures used by the Population Administration," which implements immigration policy.

The advisory committee is expected to recommend legal methods by which Israel can tighten its immigration laws, since three members of the advisory committee have already served on a National Security Council (NSC) panel that suggested principles under which immigration restrictions could be made more strict.

The panel sought to maintain a distinct Jewish majority to preserve Israel's status as a Jewish and democratic state.

CLARIFICATION:

In the last issue Vol 1. No 5 we referred to a 'miner' in the piece on South Africa as having received beneficial consideration under the new Immigration regulations.

A concerned client wrote to ask if South Africa was now promoting work for juveniles or 'minors'.

We want to clarify that we were referring to the category of employee known as a mine worker or 'miner' and not a 'minor'.