

# Global BRIEF



Your professional link to global immigration news

## CANADA: SIX MONTH BIOMETRIC TRIAL PERIOD STARTS SOON

Citizenship and Immigration Canada will be introducing a six-month trial period during which it plans to collect biometrics from new arrivals to Canada using technology as their tool.

The intention is to gather digitized photos and inkless fingerprints, in addition to making greater use of biometrics such as measurable physical characteristics such as facial appearance, iris scans or fingerprints as a means of confirming identity. The findings will be fed into a database during the life of the pilot project.

The pilot project will give authorities the tools to match photos and fingerprints against existing files to help screen out ineligible applicants, such as individuals on criminal watch lists.

Once a visa is issued, it will also allow officials to electronically check the document once the individual arrives in Canada.

At Vancouver International Airport and the British Columbia land border crossings at Douglas and Pacific Highway, the Canada Border Services Agency will use digital readers to verify the visa information.

## S. KOREA: 50 CANADIAN TEACHERS ARRESTED FOR WORKING ILLEGALLY

Nearly 50 English language teachers from Canada have been arrested in South Korea on suspicion of working illegally or having fraudulent qualifications.

Immigration officers are believed to have raided schools, arresting teachers and recruiters.

The Canadian Foreign Affairs Department advised that in the last two weeks it had logged 50 cases involving English teachers. Of these, 35 teachers have now been deported, five are awaiting deportation and the rest are still under investigation.

## MOZAMBIQUE: VISA WAIVER AGREEMENT TAKES EFFECT 2 MONTHS LATE

The visa waiver agreement between Mozambique and Swaziland, signed in Maputo on 12 August 2005 took effect 2 months late due to delays in the Swazi ratification procedures. The agreement now in place means that no entry visas will be required for Mozambicans visiting Swaziland, or Swazis visiting Mozambique, as long as they possess a valid passport or equivalent travel document.

Earlier this year Mozambique signed reciprocal visa waiver agreements with South Africa and Botswana. A similar agreement was signed last week with Zambia, which will take effect once ratification procedures are concluded, probably before the end of the year.

## NIGERIA: COMPTROLLER OF IMMIGRATION REQUIRES THAT THE "NIGERIANISATION" POLICY BE TAKEN UP AGAIN BY FOREIGN COMPANIES

This promotes the need for Nigerians to be hired to understudy the foreign experts as a condition for the issuance of expatriate permits.

It is also of note that procedure of issuance of a visa cablegram from the headquarters of the multinationals has been canceled.

The new policy requires applicants to channel requests through foreign missions in their respective countries of origin.

This will ensure that documents presented at any given time can be properly vetted and ample time for confirmation of information supplied.

## U.A.E. ONLINE VISAS HAVE ARRIVED

The Department of Naturalization and Residence in Abu Dhabi will soon launch a new service whereby members of the public can apply for visas online.

Members of the public will soon be able to apply for visas via Internet directly from their homes or typing offices. Applications will then be verified and processed online prior to issue of visas upon payment of fees electronically.

Expatriate doctors, engineers, lawyers and technicians are entitled to obtain the newly introduced Mission Entry Visa.

Under the decision issued by the Minister of Interior, the visa will be issued to those who come for temporary jobs with the permission of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. It is issued for three months for a fee of Dh600 and can be renewed only once for another three months for an additional fee of Dh1,200, also with the permission of the labor ministry.

The decision also entitles these professionals as well as businessmen, company managers, representatives and sales managers, auditors and representatives of companies who visit the country for business to obtain Mission Entry Visas for 14 days

## CHINA: NEW VISA CENTER OPENS IN SHANGHAI IN PUDONG

Shanghai opened its new facility for visas last week, moving from its old location at 333 Wu Song Lu to a modern facility at 1500 Minsheng Road in Pudong.

Going forward the center also plans to offer online visa applications and renewals. The new Entry and Exit Administration Bureau building replaces the old office on busy Wusong Road, near the Bund, which was always crowded and had no parking facilities.

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