

GLOBAL BRIEF

Immigration Alert

Issue: 0109

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CHINA

New Year Office Closure Notice - Year of the OX 2009

This Lunar New Year Festival is the most important holiday in China and lasts for 15 days starting January 26th, 2009.

The PLG office and all Government offices in China will be closed from January 25, 2009 through January 31, 2009.

Customs will be closed from January 24, 2009 until January 31 2009.

History of the celebration:

The year 2009 is the year of the Ox. The legend states that a mythological beast, Nian (meaning "year"), preyed on people the night before each New Year. After successfully being driven into the woods, the festivities begun and red lanterns and decorations were displayed to keep the beast away, as Nian despised the color red. The Chinese phrase for "happy new year" stems from the "Guo Nian" which translates to "survive the Nian" and "Guo" which means to "pass over and observe."

The custom continues today and involves extensive cleaning and hanging red paper in advance, as well as food, gift-giving, and setting off firecrackers the night of to bring about good luck in the upcoming year.

Pro-link GLOBAL wishes our China team a Happy New Year!

MALAYSIA

Employment Pass (Work Permit) Update

Effective January 1, 2009, the Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia (J.I.M.) has

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established the following Employment Pass updates:

1) Employers hiring foreign nationals must prove paid-up capital based on the below guidelines:

100% Locally-Owned -- RM 250,000.00

Locally and Foreign-Owned -- RM 350,000.00

100% Foreign-Owned -- RM 500,000.00

2) Minimum salary to be paid to employees is RM 5,000.00/ month and minimum age is 27 years of age (except for those working in the IT field - minimum age is 23 years with two-years' work experience); and,

3) Spouses with a Dependant Pass can do charity work in Malaysia upon approval from the J.I.M. and can be paid for employment without converting their Pass to an Employment or Temporary Employment Visitor Pass as long as they obtain a Passport endorsement by the J.I.M.

This information provided to you by PLG | KGNM Malaysia.

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