



In this issue:

Summary

Key Features

Deloitte's View

People to contact

GES NewsFlash

Hong Kong – Contingency arrangements for temporary relocation of staff from Japan to Hong Kong

March 24, 2011

Summary

The Hong Kong Immigration Department ("HKID") has announced the creation of a dedicated channel for temporary employment visa applications for financial institutions' staff currently working in Japan. This special channel will facilitate the employment visa application process and help financial institutions wishing to temporarily relocate their employees to Hong Kong following the recent tragic events in Japan.

With immediate effect, the HKID agreed to shorten the processing time for such applications to within two days.

Although this policy was first established to help financial institutions relocate their employees, we believe this policy may be extended to other industries.

Key Features

To make use of this special dedicated channel, the applications should include the following:

- Application Purpose
 - Must state clearly in the application that this application is for **temporary relocation for staff from Japan to Hong Kong**
- Applications and Supporting Documents
 - Completed application forms ID990A and ID990B
 - A copy of applicant's travel document bearing his or her photo and biodata
 - A supporting letter from the sponsoring company, which should include:
 - Title of "Special Applications for Urgent relocation of staff from

Japan to Hong Kong"

- Position of the staff in Japan and Hong Kong
 - Duration of employment in Hong Kong (HKID may issue visas for a stay up to a maximum period of 12 months or according to the applicant's request, whichever is less.)
- Special Arrangement
 - It is requested that applications be submitted by batches to the Hong Kong Immigration Department, Counter 1 on 24/F, Immigration Department (Employment and Visit Visas Section).

Deloitte's View

Several companies in the Financial Services industry have requested fast-track approval to help relocate staff from Japan to Hong Kong, and the HKID has responded quickly with this offer to expedite its work visa applications.

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Back to Top

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