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CZECH GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTS “PROJECT VOLUNTARY RETURNS”

The Philippine Embassy in Prague has reported that the Czech Government has implemented “Project Voluntary Returns” aimed at enticing foreign workers who have lost their jobs in the country to return to their home countries.

Under the scheme, qualified foreigners who have lost their jobs prior to the termination of their contracts and who voluntarily return to their country of origin will be provided with free air fare, free pre-exit and transit assistance, allowance amounting to Euro 500 each for an adult, and Euro 250 for every child below 15 years old. They will also be provided with emergency accommodation for the period from registration until exit from the Czech Republic.

To qualify for the Project, the foreigner must meet the following requirements:

1. Should be a legal alien in the Czech Republic;
2. Must be unable to cover the costs of returning to the home country;
3. Must have a valid residence permit or a valid exit order issued after the residence permit has expired; and
4. Has not been issued a deportation order.

The initiative was undertaken by the Czech government to address the growing number of foreigners who have lost their jobs in the country as a result of the global economic crisis. It is estimated that 12,000 foreigners were laid off in the first 3 months of 2009. The number could reach to 70,000 by the end of the year.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

JENNIFER JARDIN-MANALILI
Administrator

(Source: Philippine Embassy of Prague)