

Republic of the Philippines



About The Philippines

Capital City:

- Manila

Largest City:

- Quezon City

Monetary Unit:

- Peso (PHP)

Major Languages:

- Filipino (based on Tagalog), English

Main Exports:

- Semiconductors & Electronic Products
- Transport Equipment
- Garments
- Copper & petroleum products

Our Immigration Services in the Philippines

Business Travel – Guidance & assistance with Temporary Visitor Visa applications filed with the Filipino consulates & missions abroad

Pre-Arranged Employment Visas – For foreign nationals who will work as an executive, manager or technical specialist for a Philippine company

Special Work Permits – For foreign nationals who will work in the Philippines for less than 6 months

Alien Employment Permits – For foreign national employees who will reside in the Philippines

The Economy of the Philippines

Home to over 94 million people, the Philippines has a newly industrialized emerging market economy which is the fifth largest in Southeast Asia. Its economy is the twelfth largest economy in all of Asia and the thirty-second largest in the world by purchasing power parity according to the International Monetary Fund. Important sectors of Philippine industry include food processing, textiles and garments, and electronics assembly. Most industries are concentrated in the urban areas around Metro Manila, however Metro Cebu is also becoming an attraction for foreign and local investors. Mining also has great potential in the Philippines, which possesses significant reserves of chromite, nickel, and copper. It was ranked as one of the five most mineral-rich countries in the world by the Fraser Institute.

Although the agricultural sector is still a major contributor, its economy is now largely dependent on its services and manufacturing sectors which benefit from a labor force of nearly 40 million people. The Philippines has the highest birth rate in Asia, and forecasters say the population could double within three decades. In 2010, the World Economic Forum ranked the Philippines as Asia's highest-ranking country in gender equality and ninth among nearly 200 countries, overall. It ranks first on both education and health among Asian countries, and boasts very strong performances overall on economic participation and political empowerment.

Philippine GDP grew over seven percent in 2010, spurred by consumer demand, a rebound in exports and investments, and election-related spending. The economy weathered the 2008-09 global recession better than its regional peers due to minimal exposure to troubled international securities,

lower dependence on exports, relatively resilient domestic consumption, large remittances from four- to five-million overseas Filipino workers, and a growing business process outsourcing industry.
<http://tinyurl.com/3sfxw69>

For more detailed information about the economy and foreign investment in the Philippines, visit the following web site:
<http://tinyurl.com/3ua4x59>

Business Travel to the Philippines

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to the Philippines for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months beyond the intended dates of stay and contain at least two blank visa pages. Most foreign nationals, including Canada, U.S. and UK, may enter the Philippines as a visitor for less than 20 days without obtaining a visa; however the officials at the port of entry may exercise a wide latitude of discretion during admission. U.S. business visitors are advised to apply for a 9(A) Temporary Visitor's Visa in advance. A full list of visa waiver nations can be found at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3taknau>.

Further, the Philippines is one of the sixteen members of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) scheme. The other members include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, China, Peru, Singapore and Thailand. Issued only to bona fide business persons, the ABTC works like a visa with validity of three years or upon the expiry date of the holder's passport. It provides each holder facilitated entry and exits through special APEC/ABTC lanes at major airports of these participating economies. An ABTC holder, however, is still required to carry his or her valid passport.

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Regardless of method of entry, business visitors who have entered the Philippines visa free are strictly prohibited from engaging in employment. The Department of Foreign Affairs maintains an updated list of embassies and foreign consulates abroad at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3sx6asz>.

Living in the Philippines

Located in Southeastern Asia, the Philippines is an archipelago consisting of over 7,000 islands that lie between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Its three main islands are Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The Philippines is the third largest English speaking country in the world. It has a rich history combining Asian, European, and American influences, thus it is an attractive location for expatriates. More than fifty-five percent of the Philippine population and most expatriates live on the Northern island of Luzon.

Filipino Business Culture

Because of its unique history and geographical position, the Filipino culture reflects its Eastern and Western influences. Asian concepts such as the importance of the preservation of face coexist with such Latin characteristics as male machismo and the need to seek revenge for any perceived personal slights.

Business meetings in the Philippines are generally conducted in English. Appointments are required and it is advisable to schedule one month in advance. Etiquette follows to confirm the meeting a few days prior and to be punctual. It is customary for business visitors to present their business cards first, presenting with two hands.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/3boa3o>;
<http://tinyurl.com/42wtnob>

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.

Philippines 9G Work Permit Process

1

Application for 9G Visa via Philippine Bureau of Immigration

2

Application for Alien Employment Permit (AEP) from the Philippine Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE)

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in the Philippines

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including the Philippines. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: business or work visa application preparation and

filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping/ activation and identity card collection; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Filipino embassy or mission abroad and regional labor offices may be available.

The lead time for preparing work permit applications can be lengthy in view of the translations and authentication of supporting documentation normally required. Thus, if your company's office in the Philippines anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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