



Re:locate

THE MAGAZINE FOR RELOCATION & HR PROFESSIONALS

Re:locate Extra

Issue 23, December 2007

Welcome to the Christmas edition of *Re:locate* Extra - the electronic newsletter designed to keep you up-to-speed with the latest developments in the world of relocation. Don't forget that the winter issue of *Re:locate* magazine is available online in digital format through our website at www.relocatemagazine.com, ideal for international readers.

As the year draws to a close, what better time to reflect on your achievements in 2007 and celebrate your successes? Take the time to enter yourself, your team or your organisation for the [Re:locate Awards](#) - there are seven awards, with a choice of categories for HR and service providers. The closing date for entries is February 8, 2008, and with Christmas almost upon us, it'll be here sooner than you think. [Check out our website](#) for entry details, and make a date in your diary to attend our fabulous gala awards dinner on 23 April at the Institute of Directors in London.

With best wishes for Christmas and New Year from the team at *Re:locate*.

Fiona Murchie
Managing Editor

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Re:locate Extra features an exciting range of job opportunities - scroll down for the latest vacancies, and keep checking our website at www.relocatemagazine.com!

Top Stories This Month

EuRA launch accreditation programme for relocation providers

The European Relocation Association announced the implementation of the first certificated standard for European relocation service providers, the EuRA Quality Seal, at its members' day, held in Frankfurt at the end of November. This new initiative defines criteria for high quality standards of destination service delivery and ethical conduct. The aim is to offer a true benchmark for the market giving customers confidence in their choice of relocation service providers bearing the seal. Designed by EuRA members, for EuRA members, the standard has some of the elements of ISO 9001 but is very much relocation industry- and destination service-provider- orientated. The auditing process will be conducted by German based DQS, founded in 1985, and internationally recognised as an expert in the certification process, operating in 45 countries. Audit costs for the Quality Seal are based on annual turnover, and will start at around 2000 euros, increasing to up to 4000 euros for large organisations, with reassessment required every two years.

EuRA has promoted best practice and high standards in the relocation industry since it was found in 1998, and now has more than 280 members worldwide. This new development is a natural progression and comes after consultation with a focus group of members across Europe.

Says EuRA spokesperson Helmut Breg, "More and more customers focus their attention on the quality standards of relocation service providers and a certification of their competence. From now on, relocation service-providers can prove their own professionalism and ensure that their customers truly benefit from the service, dealing with the national and

international mobility of their employees.”

Information and application forms can be found on the DQS website at www.dqs.de. The first companies will be undertaking their audits over the next six months. EuRA are offering training sessions covering the programme, the audit and best practice implementation in February and June 2008. See www.eura-relocation.com.

Government right to restrict unskilled migrants says CIPD

Following the Government’s announcement that unskilled workers from outside the EU will not be allowed to work in the UK when the new points based immigration system is introduced is fully justified, according to John Philpott, Chief Economist at the CIPD.

Dr Philpott said:

“The detail of the forthcoming points based system, strikes a sensible balance even though it may frustrate some employers.

“The UK economy is now fully stocked with Eastern European migrants capable of performing unskilled jobs. Blocking entry of unskilled people from outside the EU may sound harsh but will be good news for disadvantaged jobseekers and many in existing ethnic minority communities in the UK, and will ease strain on housing, schools and social services.

“The Government’s points based immigration policy is both fair and economically sound - but ministers should be wary of overdoing the dog whistle rhetoric of ‘British jobs for British workers’.”

As the new system beds in Global Visas is concerned that many people will be caught out. “Under the new Points Based Scheme (PBS) for immigration, sponsors have far more to lose if they get it wrong and also a far greater burden of proof to confirm they have all the relevant processes and procedures in place to justify continued registration as a sponsor,” says Liam Clifford, director Global Visas.

“For example, if a company changes hands and fails to register the changes, all sponsored employees could have their visas revoked. The biggest issues will be with large companies relying on hundreds of senior overseas nationals to work in their team. Under the new scheme, if a sponsorship licence is revoked or suspended as part of a dispute or for other reasons it will prevent any new staff being allowed into the UK and those in the UK must stop work.”

For more information on the new points based system see the new Winter issue of Re:locate. And let us have your views on it by emailing editorial@relocatemagazine.com.

World residential property prices slow down

The latest Knight Frank Global Price Index reveals that growth in residential property prices around the world is slowing. On an unweighted basis, prices globally rose by 8.2% per annum to Q3 2007 compared to 9.6% 12 months earlier. Rising interest rates have been a major factor in slowing house price growth, together with the tightening of lending criteria seen in many European countries.

In the UK annual growth in the 12 months to November stood at 30.6%, down from 34.1% in October and the high of 37.9% seen in August 2007. Knight Frank forecast that 3% is likely to be the level of growth in 2008 with London growth in line with the mainstream market but with the more expensive properties rising 5-10% still supported by a growing range of international buyers from oil and commodity rich countries such as Russia, Kazakhstan and the Middle East.

See www.knightfrank.com for further details. See also the feature on the UK property market in the winter issue of Re:locate, and watch out for our forthcoming article looking at guaranteed sale price schemes in spring 2008.

BridgeStreet scoops top business travel award

BridgeStreet Worldwide received the Diamond Award for “Best Serviced Apartment Company 2008” at the Buying Business Travel Awards Ceremony held at the Hurlingham Club, London on 6th December 2007.

Said Stephen Hanton, managing director EMEA and chief operating officer of BridgeStreet Worldwide. “It is an honour to receive this recognition from the Travel Industry in this relatively new segment. Serviced apartments are now being considered as a viable alternative for transient extended-stay travellers in addition to our more traditional markets of

relocation, project management and graduate recruitment.”

As a member of the Association of Serviced Accommodation Providers (ASAP) BridgeStreet Worldwide continues to drive its passion for quality by supporting the Visit Britain Grading system “Our goal is to ensure that all our managed properties are graded within the first year of implementation,” says Jo Layton, vice president sales and marketing for BridgeStreet’s EMEA region.

Crown expands in China and SE Asia

Crown has recently moved its Beijing business to a newly constructed, 20,700 sq m building just 35 minutes from the centre of Beijing.

The new Beijing Ultracenter is located in Tongzhou Logistics Park, which is adjacent to the Beijing Development Area (BDA) and is one of China’s biggest and most established corporate parks.

Crown has also opened a new branch in Cambodia, the eleventh in Southeast Asia. Jim Thompson, Chairman of Crown Worldwide, commented on Crown’s presence in Phnom Penh: “Cambodia is a country that has had a difficult past but is now very stable. The rate of growth has been very encouraging as more and more foreign investors see the potential of the country.”

Biometric testing already causing visa delays

By April 2008 all visa applicants over five years old will be required to supply biometric data before they are issued with visas to travel to the UK reminds Caron Pope, Partner, Immigration of Cameron McKenna. For expatriates and their families coming to the UK and requiring a visa will have to provide a biometric test. All visa applicants must now attend in person at the relevant (often outsourced) location overseas while applying for a visa. This will usually involve making an appointment and despite assurances that biometric testing will not delay visa applications, a lack of available appointment times (resulting in severe delays) have been noted. Biometric testing is already used in more than 11 countries with roll out in Australia and USA by end of 2007. Extensions to biometric data collection are in the pipeline. The UK plans to introduce ID cards for all non EEA nationals, advises CMS Cameron McKenna. Initial roll out (in 2008) will relate to those already in the UK and who apply for an extension or change their status. British citizens will have to provide biometric data from 2009, when they apply for a first adult passport or renew an existing passport.

For further details see www.law-now.com and the relocate website www.relocatemagazine.com.

Focus fend off expat winter blues with new programmes for 2008

If you’re planning a warm welcome for expatriates arriving in the New Year then check out the programme of support from Focus in 2008. It offers everything from how to settle successfully in the UK to career development with Open House events for networking and even special offers for the London Art Fair.

Find out more about what’s going on at www.focus-info.org.

Scroll down to the next page for the latest jobs

Job Opportunities

There are currently **43 great jobs** on our website, relevant to you and your skills. The **4 NEW jobs** below have been posted online since the last **Re:locate Extra** - for further details, click on the 'Read More' button. To view all job opportunities, click [here](#).

International Assignment/Global Mobility Policy Consultant	Hampshire	c. £35-45,000 + Benefits	Read More
International Assignment/Global Mobility/Tax Manager	London	c. £45-55,000 + Bonus + Benefits	Read More
International Assignment/Global Mobility Professional	London	Negotiable + Bonus + Excellent Benefits	Read More
Business Development & Sales Consultant – Corporate Relocation Services	London	c. £38,000 + Bonus + Benefits + Car	Read More

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