



Re:locate

THE MAGAZINE FOR RELOCATION & HR PROFESSIONALS

Re:locate Extra

Issue 7, August 2006

Welcome to the latest issue of **Re:locate Extra**. Brought to you by the team behind **Re:locate** magazine, it aims to ensure you're kept up to speed between editions with everything that's happening in the world of relocation, from the latest news and appointments to the hot topics of the day. To send your feedback or contributions for inclusion in the next edition of **Re:locate Extra**, email editorial@relocatemagazine.com - we look forward to hearing from you!

Fiona Murchie
Managing Editor

Top Stories This Month

Immigration from Eastern Europe

At a recent conference on immigration issues Jack Dromey, the Secretary General of the TUC, told a story about a complaint he had received from trade union leaders concerning the use of Polish building workers. After listening to their tirade he reminded both officials that they were Irish and exactly the same complaints had been made against their grandfathers – without benevolent UK immigration policies the trade union men would not have been there.

Britain and Ireland were the only countries to offer full work and benefit rights to the 73 million Eastern European citizens who joined the European Union in 2004. A European Commission spokesman at the time said, "All our studies show that there will be a fairly limited movement." Whilst the official UK estimate was that between 5,000 and 13,000 individuals a year would arrive, the actual figure from May 2004 to June 2006 was 627,000.

The management of the Workers Registration Scheme by Work Permits (UK) caused a huge backlog of work permit applications due to the prioritisation of Eastern European applications.

Ministers are currently deciding what approach to take towards Bulgaria and Romania. With the UK showing a record 60.2 million population, it is unlikely in the current climate that the Government will treat Bulgarian and Romanian citizens as favourably as migrants from the 2004 accession member states.

Update provided by Julia Onslow-Cole, CMS Cameron McKenna LLP, Partner and Head of Global Immigration Team
www.law-now.com

Watch this space, and let us know if you would be interested in a special immigration update lunchtime event this autumn – email events@relocatemagazine.com.

Managers struggle in language 'no-man's-land'

A recent survey by London Translations Limited into the potential uses of its LanguageBridge instant telephone interpreting service, has unearthed some fascinating 'help-me-out, please' scenarios. The survey of over one thousand London Translations Limited clients asked if they had faced unforeseen business situations, emergencies or dilemmas that required an instant interpreter. The results covered lost land deals, negotiating Moscow's backstreets, misunderstandings in restaurants and even medical emergencies. Peter Bennett, CEO of London Translations Ltd, says: "our survey has confirmed that the language barrier is losing sales, causing delay and frustration for travelers and in some cases distress. LanguageBridge provides a trusted expert to make sure messages are clear and accurate." The service can be used in the UK to facilitate international conference calls, by medical professionals tending to non-English speaking patients – in fact,

in any unforeseen situation where a rapid-reaction calls for instant understanding. The LanguageBridge service is charged on a per minute basis; users do not have to pre-book the call, and have access to the service 24/7. London Translations would like to hear from business travellers or managers who could have used LanguageBridge to get out of a difficult situation – what happened to you and what was the outcome? To share your story, or for further information, call 0115 906 1377.

Employers identify basic skills most in need of improvement

One in three employers is having to send staff for remedial training to teach them basic English and maths skills they did not learn at school, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) says in a new report that calls for urgent action to tackle these shortcomings.

Around a fifth of employers often find non-graduate recruits of all ages have literacy or numeracy problems, yet a third expect the levels of skills required for work will increase over the next five years.

The disturbing figures are contained in a CBI report commissioned by the Department for Education and Skills as part of its promise to raise basic skills levels through new functional skills modules for GCSEs.

It defines in detail what it means to be literate and numerate in the modern world of work - and also reveals what abilities employers would most like to see improved in recruits.

CBI Director-General Richard Lambert said: "We must raise our game on basic skills in this country. The UK simply can't match the low labour costs of China and India. We have to compete on the basis of quality, and that means improving our skills base, starting with the very basics."

A copy of the report *Working On The Three Rs* is available from the CBI at www.cbi.org.uk.

Key trends in international assignments

A new management report into key trends in international assignments and the future of expatriation, written by CIPD staff member Nicola Monson has been published. Based upon both primary data (a survey of 22 organisations) and secondary research published by PriceWaterhouse Coopers, the report highlights the role of management development in international relocation. Notes Nicola Monson, "While expatriates are still predominantly used for the transfer of expertise; leadership development, talent management and succession planning are growing in popularity. Employers are increasingly recognising international experience to be key to developing future leaders and achieving business success." Dual careers featured, too. Ms Monson found that individuals frequently refused international assignments because of the lack of support for their partner's career – the partners being women for the most part.

*For more information on this story, see the autumn issue of **Re:locate** magazine. To obtain a copy of the report, contact Nicola Monson on 020 8612 6387.*

New Initiative from London 2012 Olympics team

London 2012 has announced a new initiative for businesses seeking information about working with the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. This includes a new business section on the London 2012 website at www.london2012.com/business. The website also offers a free registration service that will allow businesses to register their interest in finding out about new Games opportunities.

Says Paul Deighton, chief executive of the London 2012 Organising Committee, "The 2012 Games are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... We will need a huge range of goods and services from businesses of all sizes, right across the UK. I want to see as many businesses as possible benefit from being involved with London Olympic Games."

Illegal immigrants not being followed up

According to a survey by the Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC) for the BBC, 80% of recruitment consultancies have seen work permits and identity papers that they believe to be false. However, around 47% of those surveyed said the government is not taking action to curb the situation, and around 30% said they found the Immigration Service's reporting system unhelpful. Commenting on the Home Office's approach to the situation, Marcia Roberts, acting CEO of the REC, said, "At a time when the government is considering even greater penalties against employers who use illegal workers, it is paramount that they support the majority of employers who want to employ people correctly."

Appointment ads to run in Re:locate

Due to popular demand, **Re:locate** will be including recruitment advertising in its monthly electronic newsletter **Re:locate Extra** and on its fast-developing website, www.relocatemagazine.com, from the end of September. Adverts will run in the magazine itself from the winter issue. Says managing editor Fiona Murchie, "This is a fantastic opportunity to reach a very targeted jobs market covering a wide range of HR and relocation-industry positions." For more information, call Fiona on 01892 891334; or email her at ads@relocatemagazine.com.

Re:locate Events

Don't miss your chance to book your place at:

Supporting Families Solving Education and Dual Career Dilemmas

Wednesday 8th November 2006 at the IOD, 116 Pall Mall, London

Make sure you're informed and up to date with the latest trends, to ensure the mobility of your people and aid retention!

Our full-day event will address a range of family issues, drawing upon research into good practice to provide practical solutions to commonly encountered concerns. We'll get you up to speed with the latest developments in schooling and spousal assistance, as well as providing creative solutions to accommodation dilemmas. Speakers will include education experts Gill Bowker and Richard Pearce and the latest dual-career and family surveys and research round-up from Sue Shortland of London Metropolitan University.

For more information on the programme and speakers and to book your place, click [HERE](#).

For any general enquiries please email us at events@relocatemagazine.com or call David Sadler on 01892 891334.

Suppliers' Directory

Find contact details for essential relocation services, from educational consultants to serviced accommodation-providers. Recent entries include Waverley School, ACS International Schools, Travelex, TEAM Relocations and Sevenoaks School.

Click [HERE](#) to go to directly to our online Suppliers' Directory.

Appointment ads in Re:locate

As outlined above, **Re:locate** will be including recruitment advertising in its monthly electronic newsletter **Re:locate Extra** and on its website, www.relocatemagazine.com, from the end of September. For more information, call Fiona Murchie on 01892 891334; or email her at ads@relocatemagazine.com.

www.relocatemagazine.com