

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill 4580

Authored by: Gabriela Women's Partylist Reps. **LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN** and
EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS

Explanatory Note

With its geographic proximity, resilient highly industrialized economy, and close economic and cultural ties with the Philippines, Japan is one of the top destinations of Filipino migration and deployment of overseas Filipino workers in the Far East. It is also one of the earliest destinations of Filipino migration, dating back to the Spanish colonial period.

Before WWII, when Japan took interest of the country as part of its ambition to establish a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere, it deployed diplomatic and military officers disguised as civilian investors. They took residence in the country and married Filipina partners whom they brought home after the war. When the Philippine government started implementing its labor-export policy in the late 1970s, Japan was among the top choices for foreign employment destination.

There are now about 211,716 Filipinos in Japan, increasing from 144,100 in 2000. This figure does not include Filipino migrants who have long established permanent residence in Japan as partners of Japanese citizens. Nor does it include undocumented Filipino migrants estimated to number from a low of 30,000 to as high as 50,000. Filipino migrants and deployed overseas workers in Japan are working as entertainers, factory workers, nurses, care givers, domestic helpers and trainees.

Filipino migration and overseas work deployment in Japan grow at a yearly average of 9.4 per cent. This means an entry of more or less 2,000 Filipinos each year. If the trend continues for the next ten years, it is estimated that their number in Japan would easily approach the vicinity of 235,000 thousand by 2020. Filipinos in Japan are the biggest dollar remitters outside of the Middle East. In 2010, total remittance from Japan amounted to US\$883 million.

Previously, Filipino migration and work deployment were concentrated in Tokyo and Osaka, the country's two premiere cities. But in the last decade, the region in Japan that has been experiencing high entry rate resulting in increasing Filipino presence is the central part or the Chubu region. This

region is composed of Aichi, Gifu, and Mie prefectures (ken).

The hub of the Chubu region is the Aichi prefecture whose capital is Nagoya, Japan's fourth largest city. Aichi-ken is the center of the automotive and aerospace industries of Japan. It has four other major cities, namely Toyota, Okazaki, Ichinomiya, and Toyohashi. Toyota City is the home of the world-renown Toyota Motors Corporation. Aside from being an industrial hub, Aichi-ken is also the entertainment and cultural center of the region. These factors combine to attract hordes of employment-seeking Filipinos.

Thus, Aichi-ken now hosts 25,923 Filipinos, coming second to Tokyo with 31,567. Nagoya alone has about 15,000 Filipinos which is bigger than the 11,360 Filipinos in the Kansai region which has a Philippine consulate general office in Osaka City. The nearby Gifu-ken also has 8,465 Filipinos while Mie-ken has 5,105. These three prefectures form a cluster with 39,493 Filipinos.

There are only two full consulate offices in Japan and four honorary consular missions.

One is the Philippine Embassy Consulate Office in Tokyo. It services the prefectures of Akita, Aomori, Chiba, Fukushima, Gunma, Hokkaido, Ibaraki, Iwate, Kanagawa, Miyagi, Nagano, Niigata, Okinawa, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tochigi, Tokyo, Yamagata, and Yamanashi.

The other is the Philippine Consulate General Office in Kobe-Osaka. It services the prefectures of Aichi, Ehime, Fukui, Fukuoka, Gifu, Hiroshima, Hyogo, Ishikawa, Kagawa, Kagoshima, Kochi, Kumamoto, Kyoto, Mie, Miyazaki, Nagasaki, Nara, Oita, Okayama, Osaka, Saga, Shiga, Shimane, Tokushima, Tottori, Toyama, Wakayama, and Yamaguchi.

In effect, the 39,493 Filipinos in the Chubu region are serviced by a consulate based in Osaka aided by an honorary consulate in Nagoya. But because an honorary consulate is not a consulate in a true sense of the word, Filipinos actually have to go to Osaka for their foreign and consular services needs. The Osaka consulate general office offers outreach missions to Nagoya but these missions do not come on a regular basis. Moreover, they are limited to Nagoya, hardly reaching Filipinos in other parts of the Chubu region. As a result, Filipinos have to go to Osaka most of the time for their foreign and consular service needs.

Osaka is some 139 kilometers from Nagoya and going thereto from any point of the Chubu region entails a travel time of 2 to 3 hours that costs \$200 in transportation expenses. This means, in addition to financial costs, the loss of whole day of paid work on the part of Filipinos who want to process their travel documents with the Osaka consulate.

The Kansai region is basically a destination of Filipino entertainers while the Chubu region is the destination of a wide range of Filipino migrants and overseas workers: factory workers, trainees, entertainers, and domestic helpers. The Filipino community in the Chubu region is therefore bigger and growing faster than in Kansai. On the heels of this vibrantly growing Filipino community is their growing foreign and consular services needs that have led to persistent clamor for the creation of a full consular office in Nagoya, Japan. They have voiced this demand since 2007.

A consulate in Nagoya, Japan will benefit not only the growing Filipino community in the Chubu region but also the Filipino communities in nearby prefectures. Migrate International estimates that some 50,000 Filipinos will benefit from a Nagoya-based consulate.

On these premises, the authors hereof urge the immediate enactment of this bill.


LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN
Gabriela Women's Party


EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS
Gabriela Women's Party

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill 4580

Authored by: Gabriela Partylist Reps. **LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN** and
EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS

**AN ACT CREATING A FULL CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICE
IN NAGOYA, JAPAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the House of Representatives and the House of Senate, assembled in the Fifteenth Congress of the Philippines, that,

Sec. 1. Statement of state principles and policies -

- a. The State recognizes the immense sacrifice that overseas Filipino workers go through in seeking and maintaining their employment abroad;
- b. The State also recognizes the invaluable contribution of overseas Filipino workers to the national economy; and
- c. In reciprocation of their sacrifice and contribution to the national economy, it is the policy of the State to extend full foreign affairs services and support programs to overseas Filipino workers and to make these services and support programs convenient and accessible through the establishment of diplomatic or consulate general missions where there is considerable presence of Filipino community.

Sec. 2. Creation of a consulate general office in Nagoya, Japan – There is hereby created a consulate general mission that shall hold office in Nagoya, Japan (to be referred hereinafter as the Nagoya consulate general office).

Sec. 3. Area of responsibility – The Nagoya consulate general office shall have jurisdiction over Aichi-ken, Gufi-ken and Mie-ken and such other adjacent or nearby Japanese prefectures to be determined by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in accordance with Sec. 12 of Republic Act 7157 or The Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991. Aichi-ken, Gufi-ken and Mie-ken and such other prefectures as determined by the Secretary shall constitute the territorial limits of the jurisdiction of the Nagoya consulate general office.

Sec. 4. Full staff complement – The Nagoya consulate general office shall have the full officers and personnel complement of a consulate general mission in accordance with The Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991, the rules of the Civil Service Commission and such other pertinent laws.

Sec. 5. Mission head and appointment – The Nagoya consulate general mission shall be headed by a consul general to be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines in accordance with the provisions of The Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991:

Sec. 6. Appointment of vice consuls and labor attaches – The appointment to the positions of vice consuls and labor attaches and all other officers and personnel necessary for the full staff complement of the Nagoya consulate general mission shall be made by the appropriate appointing authority in accordance with the provisions of The Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991, the rules of the Civil Service Commission and such other pertinent laws.

Sec. 7. Number of labor attaches - In order to serve the Filipino community in the Chubu region to the fullest and most efficient extent possible, the Nagoya consulate general mission shall have at least two labor attaches.

Sec. 8. Budget - There is hereby allocated the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Million Philippine Pesos (P150 M) from the 2012 General Appropriations Act to fund the creation of the Nagoya consulate general office. Thereafter, the MOEE of the Nagoya consulate general office shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 9. Exclusionary clause – If any portion or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the portion or provisions that remain unaffected and valid shall continue to have full force and effect.

Sec. 10. Effectivity clause. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved.