

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**Agreement on Social Security Between the United States and Japan; Entry Into Force**

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commissioner of Social Security gives notice that an agreement coordinating the United States (U.S.) and Japanese social security programs entered into force on October 1, 2005. The agreement with Japan, which was signed on February 19, 2004, is similar to U.S. social security agreements already in force with 20 other countries—Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea (South), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Agreements of this type are authorized by section 233 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 433).

Like the other agreements, the U.S.-Japanese agreement eliminates dual social security coverage—the situation that exists when a worker from one country works in the other country and is covered under the social security systems of both countries for the same work. When dual coverage occurs, the worker or the worker's employer or both may be required to pay social security contributions to the two countries simultaneously. Under the U.S.-Japanese agreement, a worker who is sent by an employer in one country to work in the other country for 5 years or less remains covered only by the sending country. The agreement includes additional rules that eliminate dual U.S. and Japanese coverage in other work situations.

The agreement also helps eliminate situations where workers suffer a loss of benefit rights because they have divided their careers between the two countries. Under the agreement, workers may qualify for partial U.S. benefits or partial Japanese benefits based on combined (totalized) work credits from both countries.

Individuals who wish to obtain copies of the agreement or want more information about its provisions may write to the Social Security Administration, Office of International Programs, Post Office Box 17741, Baltimore, MD 21235-7741 or visit the Social Security Web site at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/international>.

Dated: January 13, 2006.

Jo Anne B. Barnhart,

Commissioner of Social Security.

[FR Doc. E6-758 Filed 1-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5280]

Title: Statement of Policy on J-1 Flight Training Programs

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Statement of policy.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This policy is effective January 24, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stanley S. Colvin, Director, Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th St., SW., Room 734, Washington, DC 20547. E-mail: jexchanges@state.gov; FAX: 202-203-5087.

SUMMARY: The Department hereby announces its policy regarding flight training programs, which are governed by the Department's Exchange Visitor Program regulations appearing in 22 CFR part 62.

Since 1949 the Department has designated private sector and governmental entities to conduct training programs for eligible foreign nationals. For the past twenty years, flight training activities have been authorized and currently, eight organizations facilitate the entry into the United States of some 350 foreign nationals yearly for the purpose of flight training. Flight training programs utilizing the J visa are regulated by the Department under the authority of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended (Fulbright-Hays Act), 22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.; the Immigration and Naturalization Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(J); the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, Public Law 105-277; as well as other statutory enactments, Reorganization Plans and Executive Orders. Regulations dealing specifically with flight training programs appear at 22 CFR 62.22(n). Certain flight training programs also utilize the M visa, which is regulated and administered by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Regulations governing the M visa appear at 8 CFR 214.2(m).

The USA Patriot Act of 2001 ("The Uniting and Strengthening Act By Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism"), Public Law 107-56, mandated that the

Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, and the Attorney General, all take cognizance of and undertake certain actions regarding flight training programs. The Department of State has determined that it does not have the expertise and resources to fully monitor flight training programs and insure their compliance with the national security concerns expressed in the Patriot Act. Consequently, as a matter of policy, the Department of State will henceforth not designate any new J visa flight training programs, nor will it permit currently-designated flight training programs to expand their programs, pending a determination as to which Federal agency ultimately will be tasked with the administering and monitoring of such programs. Redesignation of programs will continue as required by existing regulations.

Dated: January 18, 2006.

Stanley S. Colvin,

Director, Office of Exchange Coordination, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-821 Filed 1-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5262]

Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board (ACNAB) Meeting Notice; Closed Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app 2 section 10(a)(2), the Department of State announces a meeting of the Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board (ACNAB) to take place on January 30, 2006, at the Department of State, Washington, DC.

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app 2 section 10(d) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), it has been determined that this Board meeting will be closed to the public in the interest of national defense and foreign policy because the Board will be reviewing and discussing matters classified in accordance with Executive Order 12958. The purpose of the ACNAB is to provide the Department with a continuing source of independent advice on all aspects of arms control, disarmament, international security, and public diplomacy. The Board will be briefed on current U.S. policy and issues regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction and Counter-Terrorism, as well as issues related to the Proliferation Security

Initiative (PSI). The Board will also review specific classified arms control and nonproliferation issues as potential first topics for the Board's consideration. In addition, the agenda will include administrative matters related to the Board's first meeting.

For Further Information Contact: Matthew Zartman, Deputy Executive Director of the Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, phone: (202) 647-0440.

Dated: January 9, 2006.

George W. Look,

Executive Director of the Secretary's Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-822 Filed 1-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-27-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5281]

Title: Statement of Policy on J-1 Agriculture Training Programs

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Statement of policy.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This policy is effective January 24, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stanley S. Colvin, Director, Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th St., SW., Room 734, Washington, DC 20547. E-mail: jexchanges@state.gov; FAX: 202-203-5087.

SUMMARY: The Department hereby announces its policy regarding agriculture training programs, which are governed by the Department's Exchange Visitor Program regulations appearing in 22 CFR part 62.

Since 1949 the Department has permitted designated sponsors to conduct programs designed to train individuals in many industrial, professional, agricultural, and other occupational skills. Training programs utilizing the J visa are regulated by the Department under the authority of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended (Fulbright-Hays Act), 22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.; the Immigration and Naturalization Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(J); the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, Public Law 105-277; as well as other statutory enactments, Reorganization Plans and Executive Orders. Regulations dealing with training programs appear at 22 CFR 62.22.

In 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined the Department's management of the J visa Summer Work Travel and Trainee programs to ensure that only authorized activities are carried out under the programs and to identify potential risks of the programs and the data available to the Department to assess those risks. ("Stronger Action Needed to Improve Oversight and Assess Risks of the Summer Work Travel and Trainee Categories of the Exchange Visitor Program," GAO-06-106, October 2005.)

Among other things, the GAO Report found that there was a potential that the trainee programs could be misused as employment programs and that trainees could be exploited by employers or other third parties. Agricultural training programs were found to be particularly problematic because of the potential for fraud. Abuses of the training regulations were not hidden; there were cases where there was not even an attempt to represent jobs as training, and which certain employers referred to their program participants as employees, rather than trainees. In one case cited, four trainees were placed with dairy farms that had an agreement with the program sponsor. Only one of the trainees had a firm grasp of English, and only one of the four farms participating in the program had a structured training plan. There were questions as to whether such programs were merely utilizing trainees for cheap labor and whether the trainees were simply receiving enough training to perform their work. (GAO Report, pp. 17, 21).

The Department has taken steps to address these concerns. Among other things, the Department has consulted with the Department of Labor and the Department of Agriculture in order to develop ways to better monitor agricultural training programs and to determine whether such agriculture training programs are subject to, and if so, whether they are in compliance with, existing statutes such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq., and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act, Public Law 97-470, 29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

Pending the Department's resolution of these outstanding issues, the Department of State will not designate any new J visa agricultural training programs, nor will it permit currently-designated training programs offering agricultural training to expand the agricultural training component of their programs. Redesignation of programs will continue as required by existing regulations.

Dated: January 18, 2006.

Stanley S. Colvin,

Director, Office of Exchange Coordination, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-820 Filed 1-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Notice of Closure of Case 017-CP-05, Protection of Intellectual Property in Pakistan, in the 2005 Annual Country Practice Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces closure of the review for case 017-CP-05, Protection of Intellectual Property in Pakistan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Marideth Sandler, Executive Director of the GSP Program, Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), Room F-220, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971 and the facsimile number is (202) 395-9481.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The GSP program provides for the duty-free importation of designated articles when imported from beneficiary developing countries. The GSP program is authorized by Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461, et seq.), as amended (the "Trade Act"), and is implemented in accordance with Executive Order 11888 of November 24, 1975, as modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations.

In the 2005 Annual Review, the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is reviewing petitions concerning the country practices of certain beneficiary developing countries of the GSP program. As a result of that review, the TPSC has decided to close the review for case 017-CP-05 regarding protection of intellectual property rights in Pakistan. The Petitioner was the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA). The results of other ongoing country practice reviews in the 2005 Annual Review will be announced in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Marideth J. Sandler,

Executive Director, GSP Program.

[FR Doc. E6-809 Filed 1-23-06; 8:45 am]

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