

LEGAL AND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FACED BY PHILIPPINE AND INDONESIAN NURSES IN THE NURSING PROGRAMS UNDER JAPAN'S ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS: TOWARD SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Japan's Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the Philippines and Indonesia give nurses of the latter countries the opportunities to enter and stay in Japan, obtain Japan's nursing qualification and work as nurses in the country. The agreements are, however, problematic because of several difficulties inherent in them; those legal problems are related to 1. Japanese language training; 2. status; 3. Japan's National Licensure Examination for Nurses; and 4. period of stay. There are also practical problems arising from those difficulties and other sources which affect the nurse candidates' lives. This article examines the legal and practical problems, and, analyses and proposes some measures to improve the problematic situations.

KEYWORDS: *Economic Partnership Agreement, nurse, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines*

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