KOREA (Seoul)

Reciprocal Employment Agreement: No
Approximate number of spouses working as locally engaged staff: 0
Community Coordinator contract work exists: Yes
Registered Nurse position exists at the mission: Yes

The categories in which diplomatic spouses are allowed to work in Korea are limited to education, mass media, research, and culture but employment is limited as Korean companies favour Korean nationals over foreigners. Language is a major barrier to employment. However, there are openings where being a foreigner, particularly when English is the first language, is an advantage.

The foreign schools are probably the best employers. There are a number of kindergartens which may be approached. Visas have been obtained in the past for particular teaching positions so this should present no difficulties.

There are some private foreign language institutes which can arrange visas for diplomatic spouses. It is usually necessary to hold a university degree in order to work in these in these institutes. The local English newspapers, The Korea Times and The Korea Herald, occasionally carry advertisements for such positions. Each newspaper also hires four persons to do proof-reading and editing. These positions are usually filled by English-speaking foreign spouses.

There are openings in Korean advertising agencies which are listed in the English version of the Seoul "Yellow Pages". Some are reluctant to go on record by filling out questionnaires as there are no vacancies currently available or in the foreseeable future, and difficulties have been encountered in obtaining working visas for foreigners. The Korean government has been uncooperative in many instances by making unnecessary delays, ignoring requests for visas, etc. It is to be hoped that the situation will be easier for those with diplomatic status, provided that they are working in the approved areas of employment.

The large international hotels sometimes hire foreign nationals to do the public relations for them. At present a Canadian spouse, married to an American diplomat, is working in that field at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel. All the other hotels have American spouses working in that field at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel. All the other hotels have American friends when they leave Korea. Advertising is therefore largely by work of mouth.

NEW ZEALAND (Wellington)

Reciprocal Employment Agreement: Yes
Approximate number of spouses working as locally engaged staff: 0
Community Coordinator contract work exists: Yes
Registered Nurse position exists at the mission: Yes

The reciprocal Employment Agreement seems to be working quite satisfactorily from the Canadian point of view when one takes into account the few occasions on which approval has been sought from the New Zealand Foreign