

Body provides key service for Migrants

Integration Minister addresses Qualifications Recognition -Ireland

“It is critical for migrants coming to Ireland that their existing education and qualifications are recognised so that they can fully participate and integrate into Irish society” the Minister for Integration, Conor Lenihan, T.D., said today (29, February 2008)

The Minister was addressing a breakfast meeting, organised by the **National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI)** in Dublin.

Working with the **National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism**, as part of *European Year of Intercultural Dialogue*, NQAI wish to promote the work of **Qualifications Recognition Ireland**.

A one stop shop, **Qualifications Recognition Ireland** provides key information on the recognition of awards from other countries, either for employment purpose or for access to further education and training.

“Migration brings benefits and challenges. There is consensus that the overall gains for Ireland outweigh those challenges” said Minister Lenihan. **“Immigrants in most countries experience difficulties having qualifications recognised. This often results in migrants working in employment below their qualifications - a huge asset deficit in terms of job satisfaction, progression opportunities and overall, in terms of the benefits accruing to our economy.**

It is therefore critical that immigrants, employers, educators and others are aware of the important recognition information that is provided by QRI.”

Speaking on the changing profile of the workforce in Ireland today Minister Lenihan said **“the growing numbers among the various ethnic communities living in Ireland are beginning to be reflected in the candidate pool for appointments in the public service. It is important that our new communities are aware of their eligibility to participate in these competitions and that every opportunity is made to offer migrants equality of opportunity.”**