

## LINCOLN LEGAL SERVICES (MYANMAR) LIMITED

NEWSLETTER 191 - 11 March 2025

**Dear Readers,**

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

### **Update on the restrictions for Myanmar workers to go abroad**

Today (11 March 2025), the Ministry of Labour under the State Administration Council (“SAC”) announced that overseas worker identification cards (OWIC) will be issued again starting from 20 March 2025 to those who secured a job invitation approved by the Ministry of Labour and to experts who go abroad under their own arrangements (not through an agency).

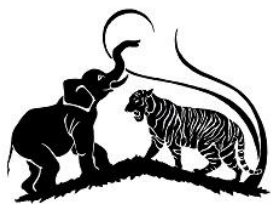
Furthermore, the Ministry announced that starting from 17 March 2025, a PJ passport and OWIC will not be enough anymore to leave the country. Rather, the worker’s agency or the expert must in addition apply to the Ministry by e-mail for permission to leave at least 5 days (excluding holidays) before departure. The Ministry will publish a list of those allowed to go on its “Safe Migration Telegram Channel” and send the list to the relevant airports.

This seems to apply to all migrant workers, not only to males aged 18 to 35.

#### *CONVENIENCE TRANSLATION - ACCURACY NOT GUARANTEED*

##### **Information for those who want to apply for an Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC)**

1. The Ministry of Labour has temporarily suspended the OWIC card issuance process as it is currently carrying out activities such as screening the list of persons who are going to leave to work abroad, repairing software installed in the machines that issue OWIC cards, consolidating the centres that issue OWIC cards into one location, and preparing to centralise the locations where employer/employee contracts are signed.
2. Therefore, please be informed that OWIC cards will be issued again starting from 20 March 2025 (Thursday) to those who wish to obtain a new OWIC card, after screening those who have been granted permission to work abroad according to job invitations submitted to the Ministry of Labour that have been approved (in chronological order of submission dates), and after screening those who will travel under their own arrangement (experts), and that flight tickets should only be purchased after obtaining an OWIC card.



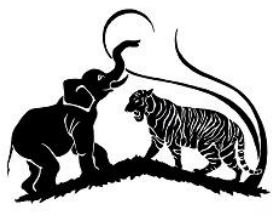
### Information for those travelling abroad with a PJ passport

1. Persons holding a PJ passport and an Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC) wishing to travel abroad, either through an agency arrangement, or under their own arrangement (experts), or because they want to go back after their leave [= *holidays*] is over, must apply online (not in person) to the Ministry of Labour with the following documents to obtain permission to go abroad to work abroad:
  - (a) Application letter addressed to the Department of Labour, requesting permission to go abroad to work abroad;
  - (b) copy of the passport (photo page and page with the stay permit period);
  - (c) copy of the front/back of a valid Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC);
  - (d) for workers on leave, a copy of their valid work permit and a letter from their employer allowing them to return home on leave;
  - (e) agencies must submit their requests for permission to go abroad to work abroad to the relevant e-mail addresses designated for the respective countries;
  - (f) applications for permission to go abroad to work abroad under one's own arrangement must be sent together with the required documents to [migrantdeparture@gmail.com](mailto:migrantdeparture@gmail.com);
  - (g) applications must be made at least 5 days in advance (excluding holidays).
2. After screening, the Ministry will announce the list of the persons with permission to go abroad to work abroad on the Safe Migration Telegram Channel and will also send it to the relevant airports. The process outlined in this announcement will start on Monday, 17 March 2025.

*[Published on 11 March 2025 on the website of the Ministry of Labour ([here](#) and [here](#)).]*

We hope that you have found this information useful.

Sebastian Pawlita  
Managing Director



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### **About Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited**

Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited provides the full range of legal and tax advisory and compliance work required by investors. We pride ourselves in offering result-oriented work, high dependability and a fast response time at very competitive prices. Please do not hesitate to contact us:

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