

## **Information for Irish Citizens Employed By NOVA**

It has been widely reported in the media that NOVA filed for court protection from creditors on 26 October 2007 and an administrator has been appointed by the court to supervise the rehabilitation of the company. The Embassy understands that currently all NOVA school branches have been closed.

As this is a private employment issue between NOVA and its employees governed by the Japanese legal system, there are limits to how much the Embassy can become involved. You can find details of the consular assistance that the Embassy can provide to Irish citizens here: [http://www.irishembassy.jp/citizens/index\\_eng.html](http://www.irishembassy.jp/citizens/index_eng.html)

### **Foreign Personnel Sections, NOVA**

We advise employees with concerns to contact the Foreign Personnel Sections of NOVA that have been tasked with responding to employee queries. Contact details are:

East Japan : Tokyo Office (03) 6688 4441

West Japan : Osaka Office (06) 7688 0404

### **Japanese General Union**

The Japanese General Union has published information about NOVA and advice for employees affected by the current situation. [www.generalunion.org/nova/](http://www.generalunion.org/nova/)

### **Tokyo Metropolitan Government Consultation for Foreigners**

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Consultation for Foreigners offers advice on a wide range of issues in English and you might wish to discuss your concerns with them. Contact details are: (03) 5320 7744.

**The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Labour Advisory Service Centre for Foreigners** offers advice on employment and labour specific issues and can be contact by telephone at (03) 5211 2346.

### **Legal Advice**

If you wish to seek legal advice on your situation, the Embassy can provide a list of lawyers with English speaking services. The Embassy cannot however meet your legal fees nor can we provide legal advice.

### **Unemployment Benefits**

The Embassy understands that in the event of unemployment, foreign employees in Japan may be eligible for unemployment benefit. However, eligibility for such benefits depends largely on the type of employment insurance held by the employee under the terms of their contract, as well as the length of time they have been working in Japan and under what circumstances their employment ceased. You should consult your local Hello Work office to make enquiries as to whether you are eligible for such unemployment benefits. The website address is: [www.tfemploy.go.jp/en/coun/cont\\_2.html](http://www.tfemploy.go.jp/en/coun/cont_2.html)

### **Financial Assistance**

You should ensure that you have the necessary arrangements in place should you require emergency funds and you may wish to discuss this with your family and friends. We encourage Irish citizens to be familiar with their rights under Japanese law and to be assertive with respect to their legal position.

In the event that you have been left with no funds, the Embassy can contact your family and friends in Ireland to facilitate transfer of funds, if necessary.

### **Visas**

Authoritative advice on your visa status should be obtained from your local Japan Immigration office. Contact information may be found on the website of the Immigration Bureau of Japan <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/index.html>

For further enquiries, or if you wish to speak with someone at the Embassy, please contact us at:

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Tel: (03) 3263 0695

Fax: (03) 3265 2275