



## Nationalities Service Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NSC Hosts Refugee Resettlement Cultural Orientation Trainers**

*NSC named as lead Philadelphia agency to welcome Cultural Orientation trainers for  
refugee resettlement informational exchange*

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 12, 2009 – Nationalities Service Center will host Cultural Orientation trainers from Amman, Jordan and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Thursday, May 14 and Friday, May 15 as part of the Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration sponsored Cultural Orientation exchange program. They will have the opportunity to meet with NSC's staff and staff members of other Philadelphia refugee resettlement agencies, as well as recently resettled refugees.

Each year, the Cultural Orientation Resource Center conducts the Cultural Orientation Trainers Exchange. The purpose of the exchange is to strengthen relationships between the overseas pre-departure Cultural Orientation and U.S. resettlement agency staff. Participants engage in on-site workshops, observation, and the exchange of information, curricula, and concerns in an effort to facilitate a more efficient resettlement process.

Refugees begin pre-departure Cultural Orientation abroad in preparation for resettlement in the U.S. This process helps refugees learn about the resettlement process and develop realistic expectations about life in the U.S. It also allows for an initial assessment of specific needs of the individuals being resettled. Refugees receive further Cultural Orientation after resettlement by way of *community orientation* workshops provided by U.S. resettlement agencies during their first 30 days in their new communities.

NSC resettled refugees in 2008 and anticipates resettling 375 refugees in the current fiscal year. Upon their arrival, NSC provides refugees with housing, furniture, food and clothing, as well as other social services including health screenings, job counseling and ESL training. Refugees enrolled in NSC's Job Club learn how to prepare a resume and interview for a job.

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**About Nationalities Service Center:**

Nationalities Service Center (NSC) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, that provides social, educational, senior center, translation and interpretation, and legal services to immigrants and refugees in the Greater Philadelphia area. Each year, we help approximately 4,000 individuals from over 90 countries become self-sufficient members of American society.

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For more information about the Nationalities Service Center, or information pertaining to refugee resettlement, please contact Kathrin P. Ivanovic at 215.893.8400.