

Press release

Christchurch rebuild project begins with a call for skilled workers

November 11: The New Zealand city of Christchurch looks set to once again benefit from UK construction and other professional skills as rebuilding starts on the city following a series of earthquakes earlier this year. The scale of the work required over the next ten years means that filling the employment demand domestically will be difficult – providing a unique opportunity for UK residents looking to re-locate to New Zealand.

Originally constructed by English settlers, Christchurch has long been known as “the most English” of Kiwi cities. Now, the Canterbury Employment and Skills Board (CESB), along with Immigration New Zealand, are looking for highly skilled workers who can help restore the city to its former glory. Both organisations will be taking part in the Working In: Opportunities New Zealand expos in London and Manchester during November to discuss opportunities with potential migrants.

The current demand for workers in Christchurch resides at the highly skilled level that includes jobs such as land surveyors, quantity surveyors, IT applications specialists, senior systems engineers and urban and regional planners.

With the UK economy still emerging slowly from the recent recession, the Christchurch rebuild offers unprecedented opportunities for employment, career progression and involvement in a significant city redevelopment.

Construction industry manager Grant Harris, who is working on the rebuild project comments: “ It’s a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be part of a major city rebuild.

“It’s going to be incredibly exciting, particularly the chance to start from scratch with the construction of cutting-edge and innovative, energy-efficient buildings. With at least ten years of rebuilding ahead, the region offers great employment security for skilled construction industry workers.”

Deputy chair of CESB, Alex Bouma adds that a skilled workforce is crucial to a sustainable and successful rebuild, and exceptional opportunities exist for skilled UK workers and expat Kiwi’s willing to relocate.

“There is going to be a huge economic opportunity in Canterbury over the next three to ten years,” said Mr Bouma. “The UK expos like Opportunities New Zealand will play a crucial role in providing Canterbury businesses with the employees they need.”

The Working in: Opportunities New Zealand expos will be held at the Novotel London West Hotel on November 12 and 13, and the Manchester

Central Convention Centre on November 19 and 20. For more information on the expos, please visit www.expo-newzealand.com

Ends

Notes to editors

For further details on the Long Term Skills Shortage Lists and the Canterbury Skills Shortage List, see Immigration New Zealand's website www.newzealandnow.govt.nz

The Canterbury Employment and Skills Board will be hosting an Opportunity Canterbury stall at both UK expos to highlight Canterbury employment opportunities to expo attendees. Please go to the Canterbury website www.opportunitycanterbury.org.nz and fill in the form to receive more information.

Further media information

For more information on working and living in New Zealand, please visit www.newzealandnow.govt.nz. You can also call Immigration NZ on 09069 100 100 (calls cost £1 per minute).

For media information, please contact Jenny Groutage or Amelia Astley Birtwistle at The Saltmarsh Partnership on 020 7928 1600 or email jenny/amelia@saltmarshpr.co.uk