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NEWSLETTER



EU-CHINA DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY SUPPORT PROJECT
支持中欧人员往来和移民领域对话项目

FOREWORD

With migration and mobility from and into China on the rise in recent years, China is gradually adjusting its policies and regulations to further match with international standards and principles. IOM and its partners continue to support the capacity development of Chinese authorities on the prevailing international law and standards (pg.2). China is also simplifying procedures and making life easier for the almost 600,000 foreigners residing in the country. We report on Chinese recent reforms on its work permit and permanent residence schemes (pg.3). Through a comparative research study commissioned by ILO, an analysis of Chinese recent policies and regulations to attract foreign professionals and other skilled international migrants (pg.3) has been undertaken to better understand Chinese labour market for foreigners.

This growing economy continues to attract foreign professionals and its overseas Chinese community to settle in the country. At the same time, the Chinese population living outside of China has reached 9.5 million, representing one of the largest group of international migrants, and as such, playing an increasingly important role in international economic development. This phenomenon sets the scene for new challenges and opportunities. China and the European Union, with the support of IOM, are therefore strengthening their cooperation and mutual commitment to ensure enhanced migration management.

Since our last Newsletter of November, this period has been marked with continuous progress with a range of activities under the EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project, supported by the European Union.

Migrant pre-departure orientation and information services are the pathways to reduce irregular migration and to promote regular and safe migration. With this ambition, IOM facilitated a visit for Chinese officials to gather knowledge on the operations of Migrant Information Centers in Vietnam (pg.4). Together with EU Member States Officials and CHINCA, IOM also visited a recruitment agency based in Qingdao that trains prospective Chinese workers going abroad (pg.4).

On the irregular migration front, practical training sessions were held on document verification and techniques for curbing emerging trends vis-à-vis fraudulent practices related to visa and passport applications (pg.5). At the same time, IOM continued to strengthen its commitment to combat trafficking in human beings by facilitating a training session for Ministry of Public Security Officials on identification, protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in Nanning (pg.5).

For the upcoming period, we look forward to more stimulating and enlightening work as we support China and the EU in setting the new migration narrative in which migration is well governed and is able to act as a positive force for individuals, society and states.

Enjoy your reading!

Pär Liljert

Head of Office, IOM Liaison office in China

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NEW FOREIGN WORK PERMIT TO EASE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

On 1 April 2017, China rolled out its country-wide new permit system for foreigners following a successful pilot phase initiated in September 2016 in selected cities and provinces.

Following the State Council's *Announcement for the Trial of Work Permit System for Foreign Workers in China*, the new permit introduced a tiered classification system for foreign workers as well as a streamlined online application and tracking system in order to attract more high-level foreign talent.

Under the previous system, foreigners were allowed to apply for two types of work permit, according to their qualifications: the "Entry Work Permit for Foreigners" (外国人入境就业许可) an employment license for foreign employees targeting semi-skilled workers, issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, and the "Work Permit for Foreign Experts in China" (外国专家来华工作许可), a foreign expert work permit for top talent, issued by the State Administration for Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA). In practice, this meant two sets of procedures under two authorities and two distinct permits which has often caused duplication of efforts coupled with bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Under the new regulation, the previous permits are combined into a single "Work Permit for Foreigners in China" (外国人来华工作许可), managed exclusively by SAFEA. Foreign workers will be classified into three categories, according to their qualifications:

Level A: for high level talents (including scientists, international entrepreneurs, leading figures in science and technology and specialized professionals)

Level B: for professional personnel (professional technicians, foreign language teachers, master graduates from top universities).

Level C: for temporary/ seasonal workers (housekeepers, seasonal workers in border areas, fishing workers).

Each applicant will be assigned a unique ID number that does not change, regardless of permit renewal or change of employer.



A "green channel" will be opened for top talents with the possibility for them to directly apply online for completion and submission, without submitting hard-copies materials. Top talent foreign workers will not be subjected to any quota, while the number of foreign professional talents (Category B) shall be limited based on market demand and any restriction on ordinary foreigners (Category C) will be subject to China's relevant regulations.

Through streamline checks and approvals, the integration of the two different work permits was designed to ease administrative procedures, shorten bureaucratic times, avoid administrative loopholes and improve efficiency.

According to SAFEA, as of 28 March 2017, the trial cities and provinces had processed 20,188 applications and issued 9,638 work permits to foreigners in China. The number of enterprises registered for the service had reached 21,866. The pilot cities included Beijing, Hebei, Tianjin, Anhui, Shandong, Guangdong, Sichuan and Ningxia Hui autonomous region.

In June 2017, IOM will organize a briefing, conducted by SAFEA, on the new foreign work permit for European embassies.

CHINESE NEW "GREEN CARD" SYSTEM EXPLAINED TO EUROPEAN EMBASSIES

The "Briefing for European Embassies on the Revised Permanent Residence Permit" was carried out on 5 April 2017.

The briefing attracted 18 participants (from the EU Delegation, 14 EU Member States, Iceland and Switzerland) who were provided with an in-depth understanding of the revised permanent residence permit commonly known as the Chinese *Green card*. Dr. Huiyao (Henry) WANG, President and Founder of the Centre for China & Globalization (CCG), led the presentations and provided insights on the immigration landscape in China and how the *Green card* fits into the Chinese immigration toolbox.

The latest revisions of the *Green card* follow the continuous efforts pursued by the government to attract foreigners and its diaspora to come to China and join its workforce, take up entrepreneurship projects, as well as study in its universities and undertake research or simply seek settlement for family reunification in China.

Under the new provisions, the categories for eligible candidates have been extended, the maximum age limitations lifted and the social welfare provisions revised in an effort to improve the usability and acceptance of the *Green card* within Chinese institutions. The ultimate objective is to guarantee more rights and accessibility to services (available to Chinese citizens), such as banks, transportation companies, entry and exit borders etc.

Dr. Wang also provided a synopsis of the various talent attraction initiatives being implemented by the Chinese Government at national and regional levels, including the Thousand Talent Scheme, *Green card* schemes in Shanghai and Guangzhou, among others. CCG is one of China's leading think-tanks on China and globalization and undertakes research on various migration topics, including high-skilled migration.

“ATTRACTING SKILLED INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS TO CHINA: A REVIEW AND COMPARISON OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES” - AN ILO RESEARCH

While China is actively transforming its economy from an export-oriented, low-skilled and labour-intensive towards a science, technology and innovation-based, the demand for high skilled workers and foreign experts to migrate to China has been encouraged in recent years through specific programs.

As such, ILO commissioned the research report on *Attracting skilled international migrants to China: A review and comparison of policies and practices* aiming at revisiting China’s existing policies and practices concerning the attraction of foreign professionals and other skilled international migrants. Comparing the scenarios in Germany, Japan, and Singapore’s talent attraction policies, the research puts forward recom-

mendations for China to further improve its foreign talent environment to be more efficient in the international competition for talents.

In early 2000s, the Chinese government started to introduce a series of policies to attract both Chinese professionals working overseas and foreign talent. This included pilot schemes such as the *Thousand Talent Programme* and the policy trial on the *Green Card* system in Beijing and Shanghai. More recently, the Chinese government has been attaching more importance to the attraction of foreign talents who contribute to strengthening the ties between China and the rest of the world, as well as bringing valuable resources to help boost China’s economic development. These report articulates

that these policies often set very high thresholds for foreign talents and require complicated time-consuming immigration procedures and due processes such as inflexible permanent residency, administrative fragmentation in immigration management as well as the lack of mutual recognition of academic qualifications.

On a progressive note, the Chinese government is undertaking reforms with regard to its permanent residency and work permit systems, as well as granting more flexibility on pilot initiatives related to internships to foreign students and young professionals.

CHINESE OFFICIALS TRAINED ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION LAW

The two-day “Training on International Migration Law and International Standards” took place in Beijing in March and was conducted by two experts on International Migration Law.

The training session, organized by IOM, aimed at providing a broad overview of the migration-related legal instruments and frameworks to Chinese officials charged with aspects of migration management. It gathered 51 Chinese participants from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce, Human Resources and Social Security, Civil Affairs and Education, the National Health and Planning Commission, the State Administration for Foreign Expert Affairs, Provincial Foreign Affairs Offices and academic experts.

Officials were trained on a wide range of migration law related topics such as: the sources of International Migration Law (IML) and the national and international systems of protection, the principles surrounding exit and entry, the consular protection for migrants, labor migration, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the protection of migrant children, and the principle of non-discrimination.

Mr. TIAN Lin, Counsellor from the Department of International Organizations and Conferences,

MFA, highlighted that migration issues have become an important theme of global management. This kind of workshop is beneficial for the Chinese side to draw upon international experience and practice on management migration issues. Participants also



Dr. Jean-Pierre Gauci, Research Fellow, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

acknowledged that strong cooperation and timely sharing of information between authorities at international, national, and local levels remains vital and of critical importance.

IML has been indicated as indispensable for any

country willing to protect the rights of migrants and have adequate migration policies. IOM’s work in this regard is to promote IML, liaise with partner governments and assist countries in improving their migration policies and pursue best international practices. Capacity building efforts in this area remain an important element of IOM support to governments in enhancing their knowledge on IML application.

At the end of the two days, participants showed a better understanding of the global environment that constitutes the framework for cooperative migration governance.

“Better governance and better migration policies are two sides of the same coin.”

**KRISTINA TOUZENIS,
IOM INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
LAW UNIT**

VISIT TO VIETNAM: BEEA OFFICIALS ENHANCE THEIR UNDERSTANDING ON MIGRANT INFORMATION CENTERS

From 18 to 21 December 2016, IOM facilitated a visit to Vietnam for Chinese officials of the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration (BEEA). The main objective of the study visit was to showcase the concept and operationalization of *Migrant Information Centers* (MIC) and the impact they can have in reducing irregular migration and promoting regular and safe migration through the engagement with and information services to prospective migrants.

During the four-day trip, the Chinese delegation was led by Mr XIONG Shuren, Deputy Director, Division of Exit and Entry Administration for Chinese Citizens of BEEA. The delegation comprised MPS delegates, including Deputy Director of General Office, officials from Political Division and the International Cooperation Division of BEEA.

They visited the ILO's Bac Ninh Migrant Worker's Resource Centre and the IOM Migrant Resource Centre in the capital city of Hanoi. By reflecting on the Vietnamese experience, the activity was meant to provide inputs to the possible way-forward towards implementation of MICs in China. Chinese officials engaged in detailed discussions with local authorities and showed interest in the work and services provided. At the same time, they also stressed the need to further evaluate internally what would be the best MIC model for the Chinese context in order to efficiently coordinate the different public authorities involved in migration and better serve prospective migrants. In addition to the two Vietnamese MICs, the delegation also visited the IOM office in Hanoi to get more insights about the role of MICs.

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION: IOM, CHINCA & EU DIPLOMATS VISIT A RECRUITMENT AGENCY IN QINGDAO

On 15 March 2017, IOM organized a preliminary assessment visit to the Qingdao Syndicate International Economic & Technical Cooperation Co., Ltd, a local recruitment agency operating in Shandong Province.

Conducted in close coordination with the China International Contractors Association (CHINCA) of the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), the objective of this visit was to give European Union Member States' diplomats deeper insights into the role of the recruitment agencies in training Chinese workers going abroad, including the context and challenges they face, and the curriculum used during the training. The delegation included officials from the Embassy of Poland and Embassy of Italy as well as Deputy Director WANG Yiwu, Labour Services Department, CHINCA; and Deputy Director BAI Yu and Mr DOU Changheng of Trade Service Division, Bureau of Commerce of Qingdao. The discussions gave an opportunity to have an overview of the overseas labour cooperation and focused in particular on Chinese workers in Europe, by identifying the challenges they face while seeking opportunities abroad. Participants agreed on the need to strengthen the existing cooperation and dialogue between the EU and China in the field of labor cooperation. In this regard, they exchanged views and ideas on the scope of Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) guidelines to be developed under the IOM EU-China MMSP for Chinese overseas migrant workers moving to Europe, following the models of the already existing training books/manuals for workers going to Australia, Singapore and Japan.

Recruitment agencies in China play an increasing important role as the intermediary between employers seeking workers outside the country and the available labor within China. They also play an important role in reducing the exploitation risks for migrant workers and support the Chinese government's efforts in streamlining the Chinese labor deployed overseas. Since its establishment in 1999, the Qingdao Syndicate International Economic & Technical Cooperation Co., Ltd dispatched a number of Chinese workers abroad. The business of agency covers several countries and regions .

MIGRANT INFORMATION CENTERS
ENHANCING MIGRANT AWARENESS ON LEGAL MIGRATION OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE IRREGULAR MIGRATION

ILO'S BAC NINH MIGRANT WORKER'S RESOURCE CENTER
ILO Vietnam provided support in the establishment of the centre and continues to provide support for the running operations
The center is integrated into the government Employment Service Center of the Provincial Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
ILO has set up 23 MRCs in six Southeast Asian countries to help supporting millions of migrants across the region

IOM MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER IN HANOI
Established in June 2014, in partnership with the Department of Overseas Labour (DOLAB) and the Viet Nam's Women Union (VWU)
The center is now operated and fully funded by DOLAB, while IOM no longer provides financial support
It has a referral system involving government agencies and authorities, through an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism

ILO CENTER PROVIDE INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON

- LABOUR LAWS
- LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION
- POLICIES AND RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS
- ACCESS TO TRAINING

IOM CENTER SERVICES FOCUS ONTO THREE STAGES OF THE MIGRATION CYCLE

- 1 BEFORE DECIDING TO WORK ABROAD**
laws, regulations, labour policies and employment conditions of destination countries
- 2 PRE-DEPARTURE ASSISTANCE**
advice and counselling to the labourers to helps to solve difficulties, such as labour disputes
- 3 RETURNING FROM ABROAD**
guidance on the return and reintegration into Vietnam

INFORMATION AND COUNSELLING SERVICES INCLUDE

- labour market and employment opportunities overseas
- destination country profiles
- contacts of relevant assistance offices/organisations
- common risks of irregular migration

SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

- DIRECTLY AT THE CENTER
- THROUGH THE CENTRE'S WEBSITE
- BY THE TELEPHONE HOTLINE

EUROPEAN OFFICIALS TRAINED ON DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Recognizing that fraudulent documents are sometimes used in the visa application process, and as such facilitate irregular migration, the IOM organized on 21 March 2017 a training session on verification of Chinese bank statements.

The activity has attracted 51 participants from the EU Delegation, 26 EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland. The training was conducted by two Italian technical officials who demonstrated detection technics of fraudulent bank statements. It has also provided the participants with a chance to exchange on best practices and share lessons learnt on

document fraud work, confidentiality, data protection, etc.

The topics covered included a presentation of the main banks of China and some of their specific features, as well as an overview of the bank statements they provide and their characteristics. Participants were trained on the recent techniques in detecting fraudulent documents through examples of fake and genuine bank statements. The participants also received information on how to use online tools and on collaboration with the banks during statement investigations.

CHINA & EUROPE DEEPEN KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION ON DOCUMENTS AND IDENTITY FRAUD

ANTI-TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP IN NANNING

The two-day “Workshop on International Standards for Identifying and Assisting Victims of Trafficking” took place in Nanning on 26 and 27 April.

In the spirit of combating trafficking in human beings, and following last year’s workshop on the same topic carried out in Nanjing, IOM organized another “Workshop on International Standards for Identifying and Assisting Victims of Trafficking” in Nanning (Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region). The event gathered 85 Chinese officials from the Ministries of Public Security and provincial public security organizations.



The objectives of the workshop were to enhance the capacity of Chinese officials to identify, protect and assist victims of trafficking as well as to further strengthen working-level cooperation between EU and Chinese counter-trafficking stakeholders. The trainers included experts from EUROPOL and EU Member States (Belgium, Cyprus, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden) and IOM in China. The topics addressed during the workshop included: the international legal frameworks on counter-trafficking; the principles, guidelines and screening tools for the identification of trafficked victims; the Chinese and European’s perspectives on the protection and assistance of victims. The expert presentations provided an opportunity for participants to discuss case studies and international best practices in the identification, protection, assistance of victims of trafficking, as well as shelter management issues.

UPDATE ON THE LATEST TRENDS IN DOCUMENT AND IDENTITY FRAUD AND INTRODUCTION TO THE VERIFIER TD&B

On 27 March 2017, IOM facilitated a Technical meeting on the latest trends in anti-document and identity fraud and a training on the Verifier TD&B between EU Member States Immigration Liaison Officers (ILOs) and Chinese officials.

In the spirit of sharing knowledge and information to combat document and identity fraud, the German and Finnish Liaison Officers displayed the characteristics of their new passports highlighting their security features and new technologies. IOM’s Senior Regional Immigration and Border Management Specialist, Mr. Donato Colucci, presented the latest trends in document and identity fraud which showed that the quality and adaptation rapidly extends. As such this calls for governments to pursue even more sophisticated techniques to combat it. Mr. Colucci also introduced the use and functions of the Verifier TD&B, an equipment IOM developed to assist in the detection of passport and identity fraud.

“Effective (migration) policies do not depend on how many people enter or are returned in the short term, but on their prospect of achieving real and durable change back in their countries of origin, and on the causes that have driven their “journey” in the first place.”

LAURA THOMPSON, IOM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

I O M G O E S S O C I A L

NEW WECHAT ACCOUNT LAUNCHED

IOM Liaison Office to China now has an official WeChat account, the Chinese social media application developed by Tencent (one of the largest Chinese IT companies). Followers of IOM's account will receive bi-lingual (Chinese and English) updates of the UN Migration Agency's activities in China, as well as most relevant migration related news.



WeChat is one of the largest messaging apps in China, with over 889 million daily active users. The IOM account will increase the visibility of its work in the various projects, as well as promote the positive narrative of global migration to a wide and diverse online audience. All this with the ultimate organization goal to support safe, orderly and regular migration.

To follow the account, search for the account ID – IOM China – on WeChat or scan the QR code above

Keep updated and learn more about the work of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) the UN's Migration Agency

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"We need to work together to ensure that migration benefits everyone: countries of origin, transit and destination and, of course, the migrants themselves."

DIRECTOR GENERAL WILLIAM LACY SWING, IOM

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