



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



International Labour Organization

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

A2.8 – Workshops on Pre-Departure Orientation
Visit to Beijing Fengtai Vocational Education Centre School

26 May 2017

Summary Report

On 26 May 2017, in cooperation with the China International Contractors Association (CHINCA), IOM participated in a joint visit to the *Beijing Fengtai Vocational Education Centre School*. The school is an accredited assessment centre for Chinese chefs intending to work in Germany under the framework of Sino-German labour cooperative agreement. The objective of the visit was to enlighten foreign officials on the professional assessment process that Chinese chefs undergo for work prospects in Germany. Mr Uwe Stoffregen of the Political Section of German Embassy represented the European side and joined CHINCA officials (Ms WANG He, Vice-Chairman; Mr. ZHANG Xiangru, Director and Mr WANG Yiwu, Deputy Director) while IOM was represented by Mr. Pär LILJERT, Head of IOM Liaison Office in China

Under the Sino-German labour cooperation agreement, CHINCA and the Employment Centre of German Federal Labour Agency jointly selected three assessment centres in China that would conduct the tests for Chinese chefs intending to work in Germany. The centres are *Beijing Fengtai Vocational Education Centre School*, *China Vocational School in Shanghai* and *Guangzhou Tourism Business Vocational School*.



This assessment composes exercises and tests that measure the candidates' knowledge on hygiene (based on European standards) and professional competence in terms of cooking skills. The hygienic knowledge test is in form of an open-book examination while the cooking skills are assessed through practical on-the-spot demonstration. The successful candidate is provided with a Certificate of Chinese Cuisine Cooking and Certificate of Hygiene Course. The period of validity of the certificates is two years. Beijing. These certificates are part of the visa requirements for Chinese chefs intending to work [in Chinese restaurants] in Germany.

As part of the visit, the representatives from *Beijing Fengtai Vocational Education Centre School* introduced its operational process and system regarding the evaluation process of Chinese chefs. In order to ensure the quality of assessment, the test centre has assigned a specific division responsible to facilitate training activities, logistic arrangements for undertaking test, evaluation of the performance and communication of the results. The centre, which is a training base targeting the catering industry in Beijing, has high standard training facilities for various famous cuisine specialties with well vested expertise/teaching experience to support the assessment of Chinese chefs.

Prior to undertaking the tests, the candidates are subject to a short course on Hygiene for chefs. The candidates that do not pass the Cuisine Cooking practical are not eligible to join a supplementary test until only after 6 months following the failed attempt. The candidates that do not pass the Hygiene Test will be able to join a supplementary test.



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Since the establishment of test centre in 2012, *Beijing Fengtai Vocational Education Centre School* has undertaken training activities and assessments for 48 cohorts of students with 2538 students trained in total and 2347 receiving the Certificate of Chinese Cuisine Cooking and Certificate of Hygiene Course, a pass rate of 92 percent.

The centre also proposed some improvements in conducting the assessments in relation to the Sino-German agreement. These included: the development of tailor-made training to meet the requirement of German side;



close coordination with CHINCA, Chinese recruitment agencies and German Embassy about the assessment process as well as strengthening coordination and cooperation with other training institutions in China. Both the German official and IOM were impressed with the initiatives of this centre, which in their view, facilitated the relevant labour mobility/migration of Chinese chefs to Germany pointing out the process as a good model for other European countries.

During the visit, the participants were privileged to observe a session of the practical test on cooking skills and learnt how the examiner assessed each cooked Chinese dish based on the

unified standards and category of the bilateral agreement.

In addition, Ms WANG He, Vice-Chairman of CHINCA indicated that previous cooperation between IOM and CHINCA enabled the Chinese side to understand better international standards of managing migration issues. It also helped foreign countries to understand the Chinese system and framework in the field of labour migration. She emphasized that the IRIS system of IOM was consistent with CHINCA's principal on guaranteeing the professional ethics of recruitment agencies. Mr. Pär LILJERT, Head of IOM Liaison Office in China responded that IOM was currently working with CHINCA about possible cooperation related to development of Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) materials that would facilitate Chinese labour abroad. Both sides expressed the willingness to have an in-depth cooperation in this area.

This visit provided yet another platform to strength information sharing and exchanges of labour cooperation between China and Europe. This existing working model of Sino-German labour agreement provided practical experience and information to explore the development of other similar cooperation between China and other countries in the EU. Ms WANG He, Vice-Chairman of CHINCA also made following recommendations for further discussions and cooperation in future:

- To explore possible measures to develop mutual recognition work for the qualification of Chinese chefs to Germany, which can facilitate existing cooperation of two sides.
- In response to the high demand of health care workers or nurses for the aged people in China and Europe, there was a need to identify possible cooperation for the mobility of health care workers given the resources on health care assessors available at the school being visited.



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