



**Joint (MPS, IOM, EU) visit
to Shenzhen & Zhuhai Exit & Entry Ports
17 - 18 August 2017
Summary Report**

IOM organized a joint visit to immigration inspection ports in Zhuhai and Shenzhen under the assistance and support of Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration (BEEA), Ministry of Public Security (MPS). The objective of this visit was to provide and showcase to European Union (EU) Member States (MS) an overview of the existing systems and policies that facilitate regular migration between mainland China and Macao, Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region as well as those that facilitate combatting irregular migration.

The delegation included diplomatic officials from the Embassies of Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovenia and Slovakia and IOM Office in China. An official from MPS BEEA participated in this two-day visit.

Zhuhai

Deputy Director TAO Li of Immigration Inspection Division, Zhuhai General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection and Mr MENG Wei of Immigration Inspection Division accompanied the delegation to visit Gongbei and Hengqin immigration checkpoints. An introduction was given of the functions and procedures of e-channels, biometrics collection, services as well as a showcase of internal border controls and passengers' flow between mainland China and Macao, China and Hong Kong, China.

Zhuhai has eight immigration checkpoints including Gongbei, Jiuzhou, Hengqin, Wanzai, Gaolan, Wanshan, Doumen and Maoshengwei. As one of the two land ports that connects mainland China (via Zhuhai) to Macao SAR, Gongbei checkpoint has among the largest flow of exit and entries from mainland China mainland with opening hours from 6:00am to 1:00am (next day). The average number of inflows and outflows is 310,000



travellers per day and this can reach up to around 400,000 passengers, at the highest peak. In 2016, the passengers' flow reached 123 million person-times/crossings. Hengqin checkpoint is located in eastern side of Hengqin island that connects mainland China with Macao SAR by the Lianhua Bridge. With an increasing flow of multivehicle crossings, since 2014, Hengqin port officially implements a 24-hour clearance.

E-channel in Zhuhai is accessible by five categories of people: 1) Chinese citizens that have provided biometric identifiers (fingerprints & live photo) and hold an electronic passport; 2) mainland residents that have provided biometrics as well as endorsement of valid travel documents to Macao SAR and Hong Kong SAR; 3) Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China residents with travel permits to and from the mainland, or Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China residents with an endorsement of multiple entry or residence for more than one year; 4)



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Foreigners holding foreign electronic passports and Chinese permanent residence; 5) The flight crew with Chinese nationality that serve for the commercial international flights and foreign crew possessing visa-free entry and/or having a visa valid for more than 1 year, employment visa and residence permit. All passengers are required to register prior to utilizing the E-channel.

Shenzhen

Deputy Director LI Jun of Immigration Inspection Division, Shenzhen General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection accompanied the delegation to visit Futian and Shenzhen Bay checkpoints. He stated that Shenzhen has 10 immigration checkpoints. The annual flow of exit and entry is more than 200 million passengers with around 6-7 million foreigners annually. Futian immigration checkpoint is located in a new hi-tech industrial park of Shenzhen Nanshan District and connects with Shenzhen’s high-speed rail and metro. It is the third busiest port in China, only targeting passengers’ inspection. The average rate of passengers’



flow in Futian port is 170,000 per day with highest rate reaching around 240,000 per day. Around 70% of passengers make use of the e-channel to cross the internal border. The delegation also visited Shenzhen Bay port, located in Nanshan district which hosts a good number of high talent foreigners. The procedures and process of passing through e-channels are similar to those in Zhuhai port. In order to facilitate the frequent exiting and entering of school children as young as three years old going to Hong Kong SAR for school, this checkpoint provides a special channel for them. Another feature of Shenzhen Bay port is its “one port of two immigration checkpoints”, in which the Shenzhen and HK immigration authorities jointly work together to complete a single immigration check and quarantine procedures in one place. It is a one-stop inspection which maximizes their efficiency. Following the rapid development of metro/railway and new tech industrial park of Shenzhen, it is expected that the future flow of passengers will increase. As such, the local officials of Shenzhen Bay port mentioned that they will enhance the capacity of immigration inspection and improve the technical measures to respond this challenge.

The field visit provided an excellent opportunity for European officials to become familiar with current immigration trends, management and control of large flow of people between China mainland and Macao SAR and Hong Kong SAR. Particularly, the joint delegation better understood the policies and regulations of immigration inspection of internal border in China, as well as the practical function, process and procedures of E-channel and specific measures to facilitate the passengers’ flow. Information related to foreigners’ requirement to pass E-gate is helpful to European officials to disseminate correct procedures among its respective target groups. It laid a good foundation for further exchanges and communications between China and Europe in the area of immigration inspection. The participants identified the following topics for future discussions:

- Sea ports work and procedures for passenger ships and cargo ships (crew members);
- In-depth analysis on illegal immigration at internal border;
- Cross-border cooperation and special policies/arrangements for foreigners and short-term travellers.