

立法會
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Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 19 February 2008**

Quality Migrant Admission Scheme

Purpose

This paper gives a summary of past discussions held by the Panel on Security on the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (the Scheme).

Background

2. The Scheme is a quota-based entrant scheme introduced on 28 June 2006. It seeks to attract highly skilled or talented persons who are fresh entrants not having the right to enter and remain in Hong Kong to settle in Hong Kong. All applicants are required to fulfil a set of prerequisites before they can be awarded points under one of two points-based tests, namely, the General Points Test and the Achievement-based Points Test. Successful applicants may bring their spouse and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to Hong Kong provided that they are capable of supporting and accommodating their dependents on their own financial resources without relying on public assistance in Hong Kong.

Discussions by the Panel

3. The Administration briefed the Panel on Security on the Scheme at the meeting on 7 March 2006. Members were informed that under the Scheme, talented people would be allowed to take up residence in Hong Kong without having to secure a local job offer first. The Scheme would be open to applicants from all places, except those from countries/regions which posed security or immigration risks. The Administration would review the Scheme one year after its operation.

4. Some members expressed support for the introduction of the Scheme. Some other members, however, expressed concern about the implications of the Scheme on local employment. These members queried how the Administration could ensure that the Scheme would not affect the employment opportunities of local people, and how the Administration could prevent possible abuse of the Scheme. They considered that representatives of the labour sector should be appointed to the selection committee.

5. The Administration responded that there was a need to bring in talented people from outside Hong Kong to meet the manpower needs of the local economy and to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the global market. The quota for the Scheme was only 1 000 per year. Experience indicated that an average of about 1.5 new jobs had been created per entrant under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals. Hence, the Administration believed that the Scheme should create more employment opportunities for local people.

6. Regarding the prevention of possible abuse of the Scheme, the Administration explained that minimum requirements had been drawn up and a point system had been established. Selection of entrants would be made by a selection committee comprising members from various sectors of the community. The Administration stressed that the Immigration Department possessed substantial experience in vetting the qualifications of applicants. The Administration had not received any complaint about abuse of existing schemes.

7. As regards the composition of the selection committee, the Administration stated that it kept an open mind and would consider the views of members.

8. On members' query whether awarding points to applicants whose children were Hong Kong permanent residents would encourage Mainland women to give birth in Hong Kong, the Administration advised that family connection in Hong Kong was only one of the factors where points would be awarded. Family connection alone would not be sufficient for enabling an applicant to come to Hong Kong.

Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals

9. The Government announced on 30 June 2006 the membership of the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2008. The membership list is in the **Appendix**.

Latest development

10. On 18 January 2008, the Government announced the following changes to the Scheme -

- (a) relaxing the Scheme to allow those applicants aged 51 or above with proven career achievements, and those younger (in particular the 18 to 24 age group) degree holders with less than five years' working experience or even no working experience to enter the selection pool; and
- (b) streamlining the extension of stay requirement for scheme entrants admitted through the Achievement-based Points Test.

Relevant papers

11. For further details of the discussions, members may wish to refer to the following documents -

- (a) minutes of meeting of the Panel on Security on 7 March 2006 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1828/05-06);
- (b) Legislative Council Brief on the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme issued by the Security Bureau in February 2006 (File Ref. SBCR 6/2091/04); and
- (c) Legislative Council Brief on the review of the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme issued by the Security Bureau in January 2008.

12. The above papers are also available on the website of the Legislative Council (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>).

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
13 February 2008

Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals

Membership list for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2008

Chairman

Hon Henry FAN Hung-ling, SBS, JP

15 ex-officio members

Mr Francis BONG Shu-ying, JP

Mr CHAN Kay-keung

Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP

Professor CHOW Shew-ping, JP

Mr Daniel LAI, BBS, JP

Mr LAI Kam-tong

Mr Benedict LEE Shui-sing, MH

Mr Kelvin LEUNG Kai-yuen

Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP

Mr Dennis NG Wang-pun

Dr Dennis SUN Tai-lun, BBS, JP

Professor Eliza TSE Ching-yick

Mr YIM Kin-ping

Mr YU Pang-chun, SBS, JP

Three officio members

Representative from the Economic Development and Labour Bureau

Representative from the Education and Manpower Bureau

Representative from the Security Bureau