

Documentation

Aliens working in China

Starting on May 1, 1996, foreigners seeking to work in China must be approved by the government and get an employment license and a residence permit.

The ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation jointly issued China's first code concerning the employment of aliens in the country, entitled "Regulations on the Management of Employment of foreigners in China."

The regulation requires foreign job seekers to undergo three procedures to get final permission to work in the country. They must apply for license certificates to labour departments, go through the formalities of professional visas and receive employment licenses and residence permits.

The code stipulates that a post can only be given to a foreigner when eligible Chinese are not available.

Statistics from the Ministry of Public Security indicate that some 70,000 aliens come to China for temporary or long-term work every year. Many of them are doing unimportant jobs that Chinese are also qualified to do.

Statistics from the Ministry of Labour show there are 180,000 aliens working in China. More than 70,000 of them are foreign experts invited or administered by the State Bureau of Foreign Experts Affairs, while 100,000 of them work in joint ventures or foreign business organizations (CD, May 21, 1996).