Simplification of elementary and junior high school diploma verification process for new immigrants, now easier for studying and job seeking

(Courtesy of Lin, Pei-Chun at the Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



To protect Taiwanese new immigrants' rights to study and work, the Ministry of Education has simplified the elementary and junior high school diploma verification process for new immigrants (excluding those from China) since 2015, so that they do not have to return to their home country to verify their academic qualifications. Instead, applicants only need to submit their foreign elementary and junior high school diploma, or transcript, together with an affidavit, and apply for verification at nearby local government. Taiwanese new immigrants who need their academic qualifications to be verified are welcome to visit local government to inquire about the verification procedures.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, due to the changes in the social structure, many Taiwanese new immigrants are studying or working in Taiwan now, for that they would need to verify their academic qualifications. According to the administration's data, local governments have verified a total of 249 cases of foreign elementary and junior high school diplomas, of which 198 were junior high school certificates, accounting for 80%, and 51 were

elementary school certificates, accounting for the other 20%.

In addition, to take care of Taiwanese new immigrants from China, their elementary or junior high school diploma verification procedures have also been simplified. In alignment with the amendments to the Regulations on the Recognition of Academic Qualifications of Mainland China, the verification procedures for elementary and junior high school diplomas from mainland China have also been streamlined. Applicants can have their graduation (completion) diplomas, transcripts or study records verified at the local governments in accordance with the regulations.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, to allow Taiwanese new immigrants to better understand the academic qualification verification service, the Ministry of Education particularly commissioned the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National Chi Nan University, to implement the Program for Recognition of Taiwanese New Immigrants and Their Children's Foreign Elementary or Junior High School Diplomas. The department also published a flow chart in multiple languages to inform Taiwanese new immigrants of the streamlined elementary or junior high school diplomas, to make it easier for them to pursue studies or seek jobs. If they need their academic qualifications verified, they are welcome to visit the local government to inquire about the verification process.