

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF
SWEDEN
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA
CONCERNING THE WORKING HOLIDAY SCHEME**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN (SWEDEN)

and

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL
ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA (the HKSAR),**

Hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Parties",

IN THE SPIRIT of promoting closer cooperative relations between
Sweden and the HKSAR;

DESIROUS of providing wider opportunities for the youth of
Sweden and the HKSAR to appreciate the culture and general
way of life of the other for the purpose of promoting mutual
understanding between Sweden and the HKSAR, with
employment incidental during such a stay;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

**Article 1
PURPOSE**

The Parties shall, in accordance with this Agreement, simplify
and facilitate the administrative procedures applicable when
persons from Sweden and the HKSAR, qualified under this
Agreement, intend to enter and remain in the other jurisdiction
primarily to spend a holiday there for an extended period, with the

possibility of taking up employment as an incidental aspect of their holiday, to improve their knowledge of the other's language(s), culture and society through a travel, life and work experience.

Article 2

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

1. The Parties shall consider qualified to benefit from the application of this Agreement, persons of either jurisdiction who meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Submit an individual application to:
 - (i) For citizens of Sweden: the Embassy or the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Sweden, or the Immigration Department of the HKSAR; and
 - (ii) For residents of the HKSAR: the Consulate General of Sweden in Hong Kong or online at the designated authority;
 - (b) Comply with all relevant immigration legislation and regulations, including admissibility, of the other jurisdiction, to the extent not already set out in Article 2 Paragraph 1(c) to (i) below;
 - (c) Be between the ages of 18 and 30 inclusive on the date that the application is submitted pursuant to Article 2 Paragraph 1(a) of this Agreement;
 - (d) Be a Swedish citizen holding a valid passport of Sweden or be ordinarily resident in the HKSAR holding a valid HKSAR passport or a valid British National (Overseas) passport;
 - (e) Be in possession of a return ticket or sufficient financial resources to purchase such a ticket and have the financial resources necessary to provide for their needs at the beginning of their authorised

period of stay, at the discretion of the relevant authorities;

- (f) Not be accompanied by dependant(s);
 - (g) Pay the applicable fee(s), which include(s) but not limited to the fee for a working holiday visa;
 - (h) Be in possession of a comprehensive insurance for medical and health care, including hospitalisation, repatriation and liability, for their entire authorised period of stay;
 - (i) Intend to enter the other Party's jurisdiction primarily for a holiday, with employment being incidental rather than the primary reason for the visit.
2. The Parties shall permit qualified persons to benefit from the application of this Agreement only once. The duration of the authorised period of stay may not exceed one (1) year. Extension of stay applications shall not normally be considered.
3. The Parties shall not consider persons to be unqualified solely on the grounds of their lack of knowledge of the language(s) of the other jurisdiction.

Article 3

ENTRY AND STAY

1. Subject to considerations of public order, national security and public health, relevant authorities in Sweden shall issue to qualified residents of the HKSAR who satisfy all of the requirements as set out in Article 2, a working holiday visa (which shall be in the form of a temporary residence and work permit), valid for presentation to enter, reside and work in Sweden for one (1) year from the date of issuance.

2. Subject to considerations of public order, public security and public health, relevant authorities in the HKSAR shall issue to qualified Swedish citizens who satisfy all of the requirements as set out in Article 2, a working holiday visa, valid for presentation within a period of three (3) months, to enter and remain in the HKSAR for a maximum period of one (1) year from the date of first entry.
3. Either Party shall reject an application for a working holiday visa, refuse entry into its jurisdiction a holder of a working holiday visa, revoke a working holiday visa, or remove any person with a working holiday visa after entry, in accordance with its laws and regulations.

Article 4

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Qualified Swedish citizens and residents of the HKSAR who are benefiting from the application of this Agreement shall be subject to the laws and regulations in force in the host Party, particularly with regard to employment standards, including wages, working conditions, employment insurance benefits and occupational health and safety.

- (a) In the case of Sweden, qualified residents of the HKSAR who are benefiting from the application of this Agreement shall not engage in employment that is contrary to the purpose of this Agreement during their stay.
- (b) In the case of the HKSAR, Swedish citizens who are benefiting from the application of this Agreement shall not be permitted to engage in permanent employment or to work for the same employer for

more than six (6) months during their authorised period of stay.

Article 5 **NUMBER OF VISAS**

The Parties shall, where applicable, notify each other by note verbale of the maximum number of working holiday visas to be issued by each Party per year and the minimum amount of financial resources required under Article 2 Paragraph 1(e) of this Agreement.

Article 6 **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The Parties shall resolve any dispute that may arise with regard to the interpretation, application or possible suspension of any part of this Agreement by means of consultation through official channels.

Article 7 **FINAL DISPOSITIONS**

1. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time.
2. This Agreement shall enter into force on 1 January 2018.
3. The Parties may amend this Agreement by exchange of letters at any time following discussion, upon their mutual consent. Such amendments shall enter into force on a date mutually agreed by the Parties in writing.
4. Either of the Parties may temporarily suspend the application of this Agreement, in whole or in part, for reasons of public security, public order, public health or immigration

considerations. The Party shall notify the other of any such suspension with the reasons of such suspension, and the date of its effect, in writing through official channels.

5. Each Party may terminate the application of this Agreement by giving three (3) months written notice to the other Party.
6. Termination or suspension of this Agreement shall not affect the entry and/or stay of persons who already hold a valid working holiday visa pursuant to Article 3 Paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in Hong Kong, this 28th of June two thousand and seventeen in duplicate, in the Swedish and English languages, each text being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE
REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Ms Ann Linde
Minister for European Union
Affairs and Trade

Mr Stephen Sui
Secretary for Labour and
Welfare