

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND
ON MUTUAL VISA EXEMPTION FOR HOLDERS OF
DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE(OFFICIAL) PASSPORTS**

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties");

With a view to further promoting friendly relations between the People's Republic of China and Ireland and facilitating exchange of visits by their citizens;

Having conducted friendly consultations on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service (official) passports on the basis of equality and reciprocity;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I

Citizens of the People's Republic of China holding valid diplomatic passports of the People's Republic of China, and citizens of Ireland holding valid diplomatic passports of Ireland, shall be exempted from visa requirement for entry into, exit from or transit through the territory of the other Party, for a period of stay not exceeding ninety (90) days from the date of their entry.

Citizens of the People's Republic of China holding valid service or public affairs passports who arrive in Ireland in the company of a

Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of China where that Minister is on an official visit to Ireland, shall be exempted from visa requirement for entry into, exit from or transit through the territory of Ireland, for a period of stay not exceeding ninety (90) days from the date of their entry.

Citizens of Ireland holding valid official passports who arrive in the People's Republic of China in the company of a Minister of the Government of Ireland where that Minister is on an official visit to the People's Republic of China, shall be exempted from visa requirement for entry into, exit from or transit through the territory of the People's Republic of China, for a period of stay not exceeding ninety (90) days from the date of their entry.

ARTICLE II

Citizens of either Party referred to in Article I of this Agreement (excluding the citizens referred to in Article III), who intend to enter and stay in the territory of the other Party for a period of more than ninety (90) days or engage in work, study, reside or other activities which shall be approved in advance by the other Party's competent authorities, shall apply for a visa before entering the territory of the other Party.

ARTICLE III

Citizens of either Party holding valid diplomatic passports, who are assigned as members of a diplomatic or consular mission in the territory of the other Party, shall not be required to obtain a visa to enter into, exit from, transit through or stay in the territory of the other Party for the duration of their accreditation, provided that they have complied with the accreditation requirements of the other Party within thirty (30) days of their arrival. This exemption also applies to holders of valid diplomatic

passports who are family members of the aforementioned citizens of either Party assigned to diplomatic or consular missions in the other Party, subject to that other Party's understanding of who constitutes a family member under prevailing arrangements for members of the diplomatic and consular corps generally.

ARTICLE IV

Citizens of either Party referred to in Article I of this Agreement shall enter into, exit from or transit through the territory of the other Party through ports open to foreigners and shall adhere to the necessary formalities in accordance with the relevant regulations of the latter's competent authorities.

ARTICLE V

Citizens of either Party shall abide by the laws and regulations in force during their stay in the other Party's territory.

ARTICLE VI

Officials at or above Vice Minister level of the central government and officers at or above the rank of Major General of the Armed Forces of the People's Republic of China, and officials at or above Minister of State level of the central government and officers at or above the rank of Major General of the Defence Forces of Ireland, shall obtain the prior consent of the other Party or inform the competent authorities of the other Party through diplomatic channels before their travel to the latter's territory for official purposes.

ARTICLE VII

This Agreement does not restrict the right of either Party to prohibit

personae non gratae or undesirable citizens of the other Party from entering its territory or terminate their stay in its territory without citing reasons therefor.

ARTICLE VIII

Either Party may temporarily suspend this Agreement partially or wholly on grounds of national security, public order or public health. However, it shall notify the other Party, in writing in advance, of its intention to suspend the Agreement and subsequently to cancel the suspension through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE IX

1. The Parties shall complete, through diplomatic channels, the exchange of samples of their passports referred to in Article I of this Agreement within thirty (30) days from the date on which this Agreement is concluded.

2. During the period of validity of this Agreement, either Party shall inform the other Party, through diplomatic channels, thirty (30) days before its introduction, of any change to the format of the passports and furnish the latter with samples of the new passports.

ARTICLE X

1. This Agreement shall come into operation on the thirtieth (30) day following the date of the latter's written notification by the Parties, through diplomatic channels, indicating that the domestic requirements for its entry into operation have been complied with.

2. This Agreement shall remain in operation indefinitely. If either Party wishes to terminate this Agreement, it shall notify the other Party in writing through diplomatic channels, and this Agreement shall cease

to be effective on the ninetieth (90) day following the date of notification.

3. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing of the Parties.

4. The terms of this Agreement are politically binding.

5. This Agreement is not eligible for registration as a treaty under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Done in Cong, Co Mayo on 17th May 2015, in two duplicates, in the English and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the
People's Republic of China

For the Government of
Ireland

