



## EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ECH 11 (84)

22 August, 2011

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the State of Israel presents its compliments to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel.

A letter from *the Manpower Companies Association for Foreign Construction Workers in Israel* and a copy of the letter from *the Association of Contractors and Builders in Israel* to the Israeli Ministry of Finance have been recently received. The two associations expressed in the letters their strong willingness to continue to import construction workers from China. However, the Israeli government is now formulating new foreign labor import policy and is planning to import thousands of foreign workers, mainly from East Europe and Southeast Asia, to meet its huge demand for construction workers.

We firmly believe that the two countries, which have maintained friendly relations for many years, both have a keen desire to further the relations. The past few years have witnessed fruitful achievements in bilateral economic, trade, technological and cultural cooperation. However, there's been relatively little progress in labor service cooperation. If the Israeli government were to suspend its labor service cooperation with China, it would not only affect the good momentum of bilateral cooperation, but also cast a shadow over economic relations between the two countries.

Regarding this issue, the Embassy of People's Republic of China in the State of Israel would like to make the following observations:

1. Labor service cooperation is in line with the interests of both countries. The number of Chinese construction workers in Israel has once reached 20,000. Currently, there are more than 4,000 Chinese workers. With excellent skills and capability of hard work, these law-abiding Chinese workers have long been favored in the Israeli construction market. And they appreciate their opportunities to work in Israel.

2. We have recognized the negative impact brought by high brokerage payments charged to Chinese workers coming to Israel. We believe that a bilateral agreement on labor cooperation signed by both governments will help solve the problem. The Chinese government will also entrust qualified companies to recruit, train and manage the workers.
3. We hope that Israeli government continues to import workers from a series of countries including China for a certain period of time so that Chinese workers would account for a certain percentage of the total amount of foreign workers in Israel. I believe the market feedbacks will prove the correctness of the policy.

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel the assurance of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the State of Israel



CC: Ministry of Interior, the State of Israel  
Ministry of Finance, the State of Israel