

Launching Population and Immigration Policy, to maintain Taiwan's economic growth momentum

Abstract

Taiwan's working-age population aged 15 to 64 has shrunk yearly since peaking in 2015. In the future, Taiwan will face labor shortages resulting from its low birth rate, and urgently needs to actively expand sources of labor supply in order to stabilize the foundation of national development.

Hence, the government has formulated Population and Immigration Policy, targeting three categories of migrants, and they are foreign professionals, foreign and overseas compatriot students, and foreign technicians. To maintain Taiwan's economic growth momentum, the foreign workforce needs to be increased by a net 400,000 from 2021 to 2030. Concrete strategies have been mapped out to pursue the achievement of policy targets.

Strategy 1: Strengthening recruitment of foreign professionals

To recruit more foreign professionals who Taiwan's industries needed, firstly, we will optimize service capacity of Contact TAIWAN and promote accurate recruitment. Secondly, we will improve the recruitment laws and regulations, e.g. the amendment of the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals. Additionally, we continue to build a friendly working and living environment for international talents. Targeting foreign special professionals, we will expand the recruitment of overseas outstanding talents, e.g. scientific researchers and scholars to apply for employment

gold cards. And we will strengthen the function of Employment Gold Card Office to provide one-stop services. Also, we will assist in linking Taiwan's industries and establishing new start-up companies.

Strategy 2: Increasing the attraction and retention of foreign students and overseas compatriot students

To attract plenty of foreign students and overseas compatriot students, we will adopt new measures to make their enrollment more flexible, including encouraging schools to establish special study programs for international students, intensifying the provision of Industry-Academia Collaboration Project for overseas compatriot students, transforming the Overseas Youth Vocational Training School into two-year associate degree programs. At the same time, we will relax the requirements for them to stay and work after graduation, including associate degrees in the points system for them to stay and work. In addition, Special-case liberalization for students in short-term study programs are allowed to remain and work in Taiwan.

Strategy 3: Retaining of foreign technical manpower

To retain senior migrant workers with mid-level skill, we have been launching "Program for long-term retention of migrant workers" since April 30, 2022. Senior migrant workers who have worked in Taiwan for at least six years, as well as foreign and overseas compatriot students who have earned an associate's degree level or above in Taiwan, can apply through their employers if they meet the appropriate salary or skill requirements to become intermediate skilled manpower and stay long-term. As for young migrant workers, they could engage in professional/mid-level skilled work if they had worked in Taiwan over three years and obtained a two-year associate degree through on-the-job training. After five years of mid-level skilled work and meeting relevant provisions of the Immigration Act, they can apply for permanent residence. 🙌