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**Hong Kong –
Enhancements to
Immigration Policy**
by KPMG, Hong Kong (a
KPMG International member
firm)

Following the 2015 Policy Address by Leung Chun-ying on 14 January 2015, the Hong Kong Immigration Department announced on 4 May 2015, the introduction of various enhancement measures to Hong Kong's visa policy.¹

Why This Matters

The government is looking at ways to recruit talented professionals outside Hong Kong, particularly individuals with excellent educational background or valuable international work experience. These new measures – which apply to the General Employment Policy (GEP), the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP), and the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) – should make it easier for employers to attract and recruit top talent to Hong Kong.

Immigration and global mobility professionals, as well as employers, should be aware of the new rules.

The enhancements to Hong Kong's visa policy include:

- Introduction of an Admission Scheme to attract a second generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents (ASSG).
- Relaxation of the stay arrangements for entrants under the General Employment Policy (GEP), Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP), and Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS).
- The introduction of a new tier (referred to as 'top-tier entrants') for individuals who entered Hong Kong for employment under the GEP or QMAS.
- Refinements to the General Points Test under the QMAS such as awarding additional points for individuals who hold a Bachelor's degree or above awarded by a renowned institution recognized internationally and have at least two years graduate or specialist work experience with international exposure.
- Improvements to the criteria for investment visas under the GEP. For example, start-up companies supported by government-backed programs will be favorably considered.

For the in-depth article, see "[Updates to Hong Kong Immigration Policy](#)" (Issue 1, May 2015), a publication of the KPMG International member firm in Hong Kong.

Footnote:

1 For additional information, see: http://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/useful_information/admission-schemes-talents-professionals-entrepreneurs.html .

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The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Hong Kong. The information contained herein is of a general nature and based on authorities that are subject to change. Applicability of the information to specific situations should be determined through consultation with your tax adviser.

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