

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)
AND
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
CONCERNING COOPERATION IN IMMIGRATION
AFFAIRS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION**

The Republic of China (Taiwan) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”);

CONSCIOUS of the principle of equality, reciprocity and comity between States;

RECOGNISING the importance of promoting cooperation between immigration agencies in both countries;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for both countries to continue bilateral cooperation on issues of mutual concern;

DESIROUS of promoting cooperation between immigration agencies of both countries on the issue of transnational crimes and in particular human trafficking, through the exchange of information and promotion of capacity building;

MINDFUL of the impact of human trafficking on both countries;

HAVE agreed as follows:

Article 1

Competent Authorities

1. The Competent Authorities that conclude and implement the terms of this Agreement shall be the Ministry of the Interior of

the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Ministry of National Security of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

2. The Parties shall dedicate themselves to engaging in exchange and sharing of information and cooperation in accordance with their respective domestic laws and national policies.

Article 2

Scope of Cooperation

The Parties agree to cooperate in the following areas:

1. To cooperate in the exchange and sharing of information pertaining to national security, anti-terrorist, the stolen and lost travel documents, the prevention of human trafficking and smuggling, illegal immigration and other transnational crimes;
2. To cooperate on capacity building related to entry and exit control;
3. To foster cooperation between the immigration agencies in both countries as set out in the preamble of this Agreement specifically in relation to human trafficking, smuggling and other transnational crimes;
4. To foster cooperation and sharing of experience in relation to detecting, and resolving cases of human trafficking, smuggling and other transnational crimes and explore personnel training on these issues; and
5. To facilitate cooperation on other matters related to human trafficking, smuggling and other transnational crimes.

Article 3

Forms of Cooperation

For the purpose of effectively enforcing Article 2, the Parties shall undertake, on the principle of equality, reciprocity and comity, to cooperate as follows:

1. Exchange of information on crime and the stolen and lost travel documents;
2. Official exchange visits;
3. To invite one to three immigration officers from the other Party to participate in immigration training held by one of the Parties; and
4. To implement other mutual assistance that might be requested.

Article 4

Request for Assistance

1. The Parties agree that requests for assistance shall be made in writing through formal diplomatic channels.
2. In the event of urgency, an informal note in writing may be made to the foreign ministry of the Requested Party but the official request must be done within ten (10) days of the informal request.
3. The written request shall include the following content:
 - a. The name of the department that is making the request;
 - b. The purpose of the request;
 - c. The details of the request;
 - d. The summary of the case;
 - e. Other information necessary for meeting the request.
4. In case the request cannot be met due to inadequate information contained in the request, the Requesting Party may be required to provide additional information.

Article 5

Refusal of Requests

The Parties agree that in the event the request is contrary to the Constitution, domestic laws, public policy or national security

interest of the Requested Party, the request shall be refused.

Article 6

Request Fulfillment

1. The Requested Party undertakes to expedite requests for assistance provided that the requests have complied with the provisions of this Agreement and the laws of the Requested Party. The Requesting Party shall be informed as soon as practicable about any information pertaining to the request.
2. The Requested Party shall immediately notify the Requesting Party through proper diplomatic channels in circumstances where it has no authority to satisfy the request.

Article 7

Confidentiality

1. The Parties shall ensure that all information, documents, and personal data provided under this Agreement are kept confidential.
2. In the event that the information is to be used for any purpose not consistent with this Agreement, the Requesting Party shall obtain prior consent of the Requested Party.

Article 8

Expenses

1. The funds needed to cover the expenses for personnel training as stated in subparagraph 3 of Article 3 shall be decided by the Parties on a case-by-case basis through bilateral consultation.
2. General expenses incurred in fulfilling a request by a Party in accordance with this Agreement will be paid by the Requested Party unless otherwise mutually agreed.
3. In circumstances where the request involves additional expenses,

the Parties shall negotiate beforehand to affirm the defrayment of those expenses.

Article 9

Languages

The Parties shall use English as the medium of their communication when they engage in cooperation in accordance with this Agreement.

Article 10

Meetings and Consultations

The representatives of the Parties may hold meetings or conduct consultations in order to discuss and improve the cooperation to be carried out in accordance with this Agreement.

Article 11

Settlement of Disputes

Disputes arising from the application of this Agreement shall be resolved through negotiations by the Parties.

Article 12

Effectiveness, Termination and Amendments

1. This Agreement shall be effective on the date of its latter signature by the Parties and may be terminated by either Party by giving the other Party a thirty-day prior written notice.
2. This Agreement may be amended by the mutual consent of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate in the Chinese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

For the Republic of China (Taiwan)

For Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Dr. Jiunn-rong Yeh
Minister of the Interior

Date: 2016.12.20
Place: Taipei



Dr. Ralph Gonsalves
Prime Minister and
Minister of National Security

Date: 21 Apr., 2017
Place: Kingstown