



Application begins for scheme of mutual recognition of qualifications between Mainland and Hong Kong estate agents

(16 August 2017) Following the signing of the renewal agreement for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications between the Estate Agents Authority (EAA) and the Mainland's national regulatory body, China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and Agents (CIREA) in June 2017, qualified estate agents in Hong Kong may apply for the scheme as from today until 15 September 2017. The training course and examination will be held in December 2017.

According to the agreement signed between the EAA and CIREA, each party would nominate qualified estate agents to take a training course and sit for an examination organised by the other party. Upon completing the course and passing the examination, estate agents can apply for the qualifications of the other party to practise in both the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong estate agents fulfilling the following requirements can make an application:

- Holding a valid estate agent's licence (individual);
- Having a total of not less than five years of estate agency or related working experience after holding a valid estate agent's licence (individual);
- Having no criminal conviction record; and
- Sound health.

The quota for this year of the scheme is 150. In the event of over-enrollment, a point system will be adopted to determine the order of priority of applicants. Under the point system, priority will be given to applicants with richer relevant work experience and a higher educational level, and those having obtained 12 or more Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points within the 12 months prior to application.



The training course and examination will be held from 6 to 8 December 2017 in Zhuhai. The course will mainly focus on the differences of the regulatory regimes, relevant laws and procedures of property transactions between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Only participants who have attended all the sessions of the course can sit the examination. Those having completed the course and passed the examination may apply for the qualifications within 12 months upon passing the examination. A total of HK\$2,800 is payable for the course fee and examination fee.

Estate agents having obtained the qualification to conduct estate agency work through the mutual recognition scheme will have their practice regulated by both the EAA and CIREA. Non-compliant estate agents, regardless of whether their acts of non-compliance are committed in the Mainland or Hong Kong, are subject to disciplinary sanctions by both bodies.

Details of the scheme and application form can be obtained from the EAA website at: www.eaa.org.hk/en-us/Licensing/Mutual-recognition (note: the form is in Chinese only).

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