

Fra: 王刚毅 [mailto:wanggy@tac-online.org.cn]

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Til: 'wind.nielsen@webspeed.dk'

Emne: letter in support of translator authorisation from China

Dear madam/Dear sir,

I am writing on behalf of the Translators Association of China (TAC), which represents more than 30,000 translators and interpreters, to request your kind reconsideration of the bill to repeal the law on state authorization of translators and interpreters.

We in China suffered a lot from the lack of authorization of qualified translators and interpreters before 2003. Back then, any bilingual person was thought to be able to translate or interpret. As a result, we saw absurd translations of public signs (we still see them today, but much less), beautifully printed brochures with stunning translations, and wrong interpretations driving the parties apart instead of drawing them to cooperation.

It was with tireless lobby by the TAC and its members that the China Accreditation Test for Translators and Interpreters (CATTI) was introduced by the Ministry of Human Resources in 2003, and the Master of Translation and Interpreting (MTI) program was approved by the Ministry of Education in 2007. The Chinese government finally came to the realization of the importance of qualified translators and interpreters, and the need of special training for them. Now with more than 300,000 examinees and an average of 15% pass rate, the CATTI has become a quality label for employers to make employment choices. MTI graduates are also welcome by employers.

The next step we are taking is to have a law institutionalized, specifying the qualifications of translators and interpreters and their rights and obligations, so the general public will be more aware of the importance of and special qualifications required of a qualified translator or interpreter.

So we could not understand the rationale for the Danish Government to propose a bill to repeal the law on state authorization of translators and interpreters, a practice we hope to follow and build upon.

Translation and interpretation are indispensable in exchanges and co-developments in this global village with diverse languages and cultures, and they must be done by qualified professionals, authorized or certified. And we sincerely hope that the Danish Government value and respect this highly demanding profession and reconsider the bill.

Yours sincerely, Wang Gangyi, Secretary General, Translators Association of China

Council Member, International Federation of Translators