



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAY 6 2002

Mr. Richard Bush
Chairman and Managing Director
American Institute in Taiwan
1700 North Moore Street, #1700
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Mr. Bush:

I am enclosing a letter from Secretary Rod Paige to the Chairman of the Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council. I would appreciate your forwarding the Secretary's letter to the Chairman at the following address:

Dr. Kun-Yen Huang
Chairman
Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council
National Health Research Institutes
3F, 109, Min-Chuan E. Road, Sec. 6
Taipei 114
Taiwan, R.O.C.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Robert Scott of my staff, at (202) 401-3067. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Philip S. Link
Director, Executive Secretariat

Enclosure

400 MARYLAND AVE., S.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-0100

Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation.

001462

ROD PAIGE

MAY 6 2002

Dr. Kun-Yen Huang
Chairman
Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council
National Health Research Institutes
3F, 109, Min-Chuan E. Road, Sec. 6
Taipei 114
Taiwan, R.O.C.

Dear Dr. Huang:

At the March 1, 2002 meeting of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA), the NCFMEA reviewed the information most recently provided by the Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council (TMAC) in order to reconsider the comparability of Taiwan's standards to the standards used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. The NCFMEA members wish to thank Dr. Monto Ho and you for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding the status of medical accreditation activities in Taiwan.

Based on the most recent information and materials received from Taiwan, the NCFMEA determined that the current accreditation standards used by TMAC to evaluate medical schools in Taiwan are comparable to the standards used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States (U.S.). This determination of comparability by the NCFMEA has a maximum duration of six years from the date of this letter, unless the Committee withdraws, extends or renews its determination prior to that date. Before expiration of the six-year period, the NCFMEA will seek to confirm that your standards and procedures for accrediting medical schools in Taiwan are still comparable to the accreditation standards applied to medical schools in the U.S. If so, its previous determination of comparability will be extended for another period.

In an effort to keep apprised of the accreditation activities of TMAC, the NCFMEA has requested that one or two of its members observe a TMAC accreditation review of one of Taiwan's medical schools. In addition, the NCFMEA has requested that TMAC submit a report on its accreditation activities for review at the September 2003 NCFMEA meeting. The purpose of the report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of accreditation activities, including the following information:

- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities by the TMAC during the period covering March 2002 - June 2003, such as accreditation reviews conducted, accreditation decisions reached, accreditation conferences or training sessions held.

- *Laws and Regulations*: An indication as to whether there were any changes during March 2002 – June 2003 in Taiwan's laws or regulations affecting the accreditation of your medical schools, and if so, what those changes were.
- *Standards, Processes and Procedures*: An indication as to whether there were any changes during March 2002 – June 2003 in the accreditation standards, processes or procedures that TMAC uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools, and if so, what those changes were.
- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities*: A listing of accreditation meetings and listing of on-site visits to medical schools and clinical clerkship sites planned for July 2003 – June 2004.

Please send the report by July 1, 2003, to the Executive Director of the NCFMEA at the address below:

Ms. Bonnie L. LeBold
Executive Director, NCFMEA
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7007
Washington, D.C. 20006-7563
U.S.A.

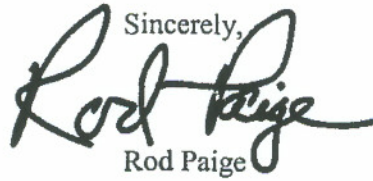
The Executive Director will contact you later this year to discuss arrangements for NCFMEA members to observe a TMAC accreditation review. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or Bonnie.LeBold@ed.gov (e-mail).

As a result of the determination of continued comparability by the NCFMEA, any medical school in Taiwan that is accredited or approved by TMAC may apply to the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. If a medical school's application is approved, students enrolled in the school who are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. may receive FFEL loans to finance their medical education if they meet all other eligibility requirements. Medical schools that wish to participate in the FFEL program may obtain the proper application forms from the Foreign Schools Team by calling (202) 377-3168 or by writing to the following address:

Foreign Schools Team
FSA/Schools Channel/CMO
U.S. Department of Education
Room 73C3
830 First St., NE
Washington, DC 20202-5340
U.S.A.

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Thank you very much for providing information regarding Taiwan's accreditation of its medical schools. The NCFMEA members and I appreciate your ongoing assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rod Paige