



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

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](mailto: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.

Page 3 – Dr. Kun-Yen Huang

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

**U.S. Department of Education**



**Staff Analysis  
of the  
Standards Used by**

**Taiwan**

**For the Evaluation of Medical Schools**

**March 1, 2002**

U.S. Department of Education  
Staff Analysis  
of the Standards Used by

Taiwan  
for the evaluation of Medical Schools

Prepared February 2002

Background

At its September 1996 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) made a determination that Taiwan's standards for the evaluation of its medical schools were not comparable to those used in the United States. This determination was based solely on the fact that Taiwan had not submitted sufficient information about its standards.

Taiwan subsequently submitted additional materials regarding its medical schools, and appeared before the NCFMEA again at its October 1998 meeting. Although Taiwan's Ministry of Education (MOE) did provide some information and documentation regarding the medical programs provided by the country's medical schools, it did not provide any information on the standards or processes it used to evaluate the medical schools.

There was evidence to suggest that students were receiving a quality education in medical colleges, and there was documentation to show that the Ministry had conducted at least one review of the medical schools and had made recommendations for improvement. However, the information was insufficient for the Committee to determine that Taiwan had an accreditation/approval process that was comparable to that used to accredit medical schools located in the United States.

According to documentation submitted by Taiwan in December 2001, NCFMEA's October 1998 decision marked "a very important turning point for medical education in Taiwan." As a result of the Committee's findings, a member of the delegation that had attended the NCFMEA meeting submitted a report on the Committee's decision and a proposal to completely overhaul the process of accrediting Taiwan's medical schools to MOE in November 1998. In December 1998 MOE called a meeting of the deans of all ten of the then existing medical schools to consider the proposal, which was accepted. (Note: There are now eleven medical schools in Taiwan.)

The recommended approach consisted of two phases. Phase 1 was a planning phase, during which an eleven-member Planning Committee was to be established, and was to

