

# Hong Kong Language Needs Assessment Project

*The beginning of a solution*

## The HKLNA Project

<http://homepage.mac.com/moogoonghwa/earth/current/hklna/>

Field Operations  
Office of Federal Protective Service - Region 10  
**US Immigration and Customs Enforcement**  
<http://www.ice.gov/index.htm>  
32125 32nd Avenue South  
Auburn, Washington 98001

Telephone: 253 815 4700

Seattle, Tuesday, April 30, 2007

Re.: **Administration of Security, Inspector J. Deaver**

cc: US State Department, 915 2nd Avenue #3410, Seattle, Washington 98174

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am sure that the job you perform is both important and difficult. It is therefore with deep regret that I must report this morning's incident in the lobby of the Federal Building located at 915 2nd Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98174.

Upon entering the building I was asked to pass my belongings through a metal detector and provide identification. Upon presenting a recently expired (22 March 2007), temporary passport issued to US residents for the purpose of re-entry into the United States under conditions of financial distress, I was placed on hold.

My document was then passed through two officers' hands before reaching the inspector in charge who told me that the document was no longer valid and would not be acceptable for entry into the building. Upon explaining that my purpose for entering the building was to visit the State Department in order to determine how to obtain a more permanent passport, I was told that only two documents were possible for building entry -- a valid US Passport or a State of Washington identity card.

When I explained that I had neither and offered other forms of picture identification, that would second both my expired, temporary US passport, and my reason for wanting entry, they were taken and examined. The documents included an international driver's license with my name and picture, a Hong Kong driver's license with my name, a Hong Kong identity card with my name and

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picture, and a certified Hong Kong Red Cross card. All of these documents bore the same name as that on my temporary US passport. I was told that none of these were acceptable.

When I protested that the inspector had all of the identification within my possession, he offered to tell me where I could obtain a State of Washington identity card. When I reiterated that I was coming for a US passport and had no need of a State of Washington I.D., the inspector replied that I did have need of one, were I to obtain entry into the building. When I asked him what was wrong with the documents that I presented him, I was told that they were "foreign". Completely astonished by his xenophobic stance, I asked him, if he knew the difference between the enforcement of rules and the purpose of their application. I was told that I had "an attitude", that I should "get out of his face" and "back off", which I dutifully did. When I asked for his full name, rank, and office, so that I could write this letter and not cause trouble for other members of his team, I was only allowed to copy the information that was attached to his uniform and barely even that before being told to leave the building.

Although visibly upset I used no foul language and displayed no anger throughout the entire incident; rather I stated clearly that an employee of a national government should have some understanding of international government when exercising his authority over those with more international experience.

What I find particularly disturbing is the inspector's failure to call the State Department within the building and verify my identity and claims. What is worse, upon my calling the State Department after my departure from the building, the officer told me that he would not intercede on my behalf because FPS was under a different government department -- Homeland Security. I was left in the cold.

What I perceive in this incident is a total breakdown between citizen and government service brought about by xenophobic arrogance on the part of FPS, or at least, one inspector among your ranks.

Please notify me of the action that you take in regard to this notification and restore my faith in national government in the United States.

Sincerely,

Mr. R. A. Stegemann, A.B., M.A., M.A.  
[moogoonghwa@mac.com](mailto:moogoonghwa@mac.com)

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