

Notice of Shanghai Municipal People's Government on Promulgating the "Experimental Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Designation of Temporary Locations for Foreigners in Shanghai to Hold Collective Religious Activities"

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Notice of Shanghai Municipal People's Government on Promulgating the "Experimental Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Designation of Temporary Locations for Foreigners in Shanghai to Hold Collective Religious Activities"

(No. 4 [2007])

The people's governments of all districts and counties, all commissions, offices and bureaus of the Municipal Government:

The "Experimental Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Designation of Temporary Locations for Foreigners in Shanghai to Hold Collective Religious Activities" are hereby promulgated. Please carefully implement them.

Shanghai Municipal People's Government
February 8, 2007

Experimental Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Designation of Temporary Locations for Foreigners in Shanghai to Hold Collective Religious Activities

(Promulgated by Shanghai Municipal People's Government by No. 4 [2007] on February 8, 2007)

Article 1 (Purpose and Basis)

The present Measures are formulated in accordance with the "Provisions of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Religious Activities of Foreigners within the Territory", the "Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Provisions of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Religious Activities of Foreigners within the Territory", other relevant laws, regulations and rules, as well as in light of the actual situation of Shanghai for the purpose of safeguarding the freedom of foreigners in Shanghai in religious belief and maintaining the public interests.

Article 2 (Administrative Department)

The religious affairs department of Shanghai Municipal People's Government (hereinafter referred to as the municipal religious affairs department) is the competent department in charge of the

temporary locations in Shanghai for foreigners in Shanghai to hold collective religious activities.

The religious affairs department of the people's government of each district or county (hereinafter referred to as the district or county religious affairs department) shall take charge of supervising and inspecting the temporary locations within its own jurisdiction for foreigners in Shanghai to hold collective religious activities.

Article 3 (Provisions on Collective Religious Activity Sites)

Foreigners in Shanghai shall, when holding a collective religious activity, choose a Buddhist temple, Daoist temple, mosque or church which is registered according to law and is recognized by the district or county religious affairs department. They may, when necessary, hold the activity in a temporary location designated by the municipal religious affairs department. The temporary location shall generally be arranged at a public place meeting the requirements on fire prevention, security and sanitation.

The foreigners in Shanghai who hold collective religious activities shall abide by the laws, regulations and relevant provisions of China.

When the foreigners in Shanghai hold a collective religious activity in a Buddhist temple, Daoist temple, mosque, church or temporary location, the district or county religious affairs department may supervise and inspect their abidance of the laws, regulations and relevant provisions of China.

Article 4 (Applying for Temporary Locations)

Where the foreigners in Shanghai need to hold a collective religious activity at a temporary location other than Buddhist temples, Daoist temples, mosques and churches, the convener who organizes the collective religious activity of foreigners (hereinafter referred to as the convener) shall file an application to the local district or county religious affairs department, and provide the following materials:

- (1) ground for applying for the temporary location;
- (2) specific address of the applied-for location;
- (3) materials on the convener's name, nationality, occupation, age, identity in China, his service site in Shanghai, and his residential certificate, etc.;
- (4) number of participants to the collective religious activity and their nationalities;
- (5) the time, scale, method and fund sources of the collective religious activity;
- (6) relevant bylaws on self-management; and
- (7) the classics, doctrines, rules and historical evolution materials of the religion concerned.

Article 5 (Designation of Temporary Locations)

The district or county religious affairs department shall, within 5 working days as of receipt of the application materials, solicit opinions from the involved sub-district office or town or township people's government, public security administrative department and health administrative

department, etc. regarding the applied-for location, and then forward the materials to the municipal religious affairs department for check.

The municipal religious affairs department shall, within 15 working days as of receipt of the materials submitted by the district or county religious affairs department, check the application materials, and shall, after soliciting the opinions of the relevant religious body at the municipal level, make a decision on designating the temporary location. If it consents to the designation of the temporary location, it shall make a written consenting decision. If it dissents from the designation of the temporary location, it shall make a written dissenting decision and explain the reason.

Article 6 (Valid Term of Temporary Locations)

The valid term of a temporary location shall commence as of the date of designation, and may continue maximumly for one year.

Where the activity needs to be continued after expiry of the valid term of the temporary location, the convener shall, 30 days prior to the expiry of the valid term, file an application for renewal to the municipal religious affairs department. The municipal religious affairs department shall, upon the convener's application, make a decision prior to the expiry of the valid term of the temporary location on whether to approve the renewal.

Article 7 (Modification)

Where the convener is modified, or the time, method, etc. of the collective religious activity is changed, the convener shall apply to the municipal religious affairs department for going through the modification procedures.

Article 8 (The Convener's Obligations)

A convener shall urge all participants to the collective religious activity to abide by the laws, regulations and relevant provisions of China, and not to, when taking part in the collective religious activity, hamper the normal living and working orders of the residents and entities around.

A convener shall, at regular intervals, report the changes of the participants to collective religious activities and the implementation of all management bylaws, etc. to the local district or county religious affairs department.

Article 9 (Date of Entry into Force)

The present Measures shall come into force on May 1, 2007.