



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

12 May 2005

### CHN100069.E

China: Whether in August 2004 or thereabouts local authorities in Shenzhen collected the household registration booklets of all residents in order to replace them with new ones; whether two adults were required to appear at the local Public Security office in order to obtain the new *hukou* for each household  
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

No information as to whether local authorities in Shenzhen collected and replaced residents' household registration booklets in or around August 2004, and whether two adults needed to be present to obtain the new *hukou*, could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, the following information may be of interest.

Over the course of 2004, the Special Economic Zone of Shenzhen re-registered its rural residents as urban residents (CIIC 7 Jan. 2004; EIU 23 Aug. 2004; Women of China 9 Mar. 2005). A total of 270,000 peasants became eligible for the same benefits - including social security cards and pensions - as urban residents (CIIC 7 Jan. 2004; see also EIU 23 Aug. 2004). In doing so, Shenzhen reportedly became the first Chinese city to eliminate its rural areas (CIIC 7 Jan. 2004; Women of China 9 Mar. 2005).

In correspondence sent to the Research Directorate, an associate professor of international affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology, who specializes in the subject of household registration in China, explained that local authorities are prohibited from collecting *hukou* booklets for the purpose of making a conversion change such as the one in Shenzhen, or any other change (10 May 2005). The police are authorized to confiscate a *hukou* booklet only in the course of a criminal proceeding (Associate Professor of International Affairs 10 May 2005). While the associate professor was not aware of any field observation of the recent re-categorization of residents in Shenzhen, he speculated that there would likely have been an announcement of the change made to rural dwellers and a notice sent to the heads of households to go to the local police station to make the necessary changes to their *hukou* booklets - usually an official stamp indicating their status as urban residents (10 May 2005). Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

## References

Associate Professor of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta. 10 May 2005. Correspondence.

China Internet Information Center. 7 January 2004. Wang Qian and Daragh Moller. "Shenzhen to Become China's First City without Rural Areas." <<http://ww.china.org.cn/english/2004/Jan/84140.htm>> [Accessed 6 May 2005]

*Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) China Hand.* 23 August 2004. No. 309. "Recruiting in China: Changes in System." (Dialog)

Women of China. 9 March 2005. "Reform of the Hukou - Bridging the Urban/Rural Divide." <[http://www.womenofchina.com.cn/WOC/ShowArticle\\_en\\_2.asp?ID=2621&ArticlePage=1&BigClassId=1](http://www.womenofchina.com.cn/WOC/ShowArticle_en_2.asp?ID=2621&ArticlePage=1&BigClassId=1)> [Accessed 6 May 2005]

## Additional Sources Consulted

**Publication:** Wang, Fei-Ling. 2005. *Organizing Through Division and Exclusion: China's Hukou System.*

**Internet sites, including:** Beijing Review, Government of Shenzhen, *People's Daily Online*, *Shenzhen Daily*, World News Connection.

**The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.**