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## Academic review welcomed

Shiny Li

China has welcomed plans by the Hong Kong government to consider the recognition of graduates who obtain academic qualifications from the mainland in the recruitment of civil servants.

The head of the department of education, science and technology of the local New China News Agency (Xinhua), Weng Xinqiao, said most of the Beijing-appointed preliminary working committee (PWC) members thought that it was not fair that mainland degree holders were excluded from applying for civil servants' jobs.

Weng said: "If the Government really ... is trying to establish a new system in the assessment of the academic qualifications obtained from other places, we welcome it."

Weng said if local mainland degree holders could pass the examinations prepared by the Government, they should be allowed to join the civil service.

The PWC has recommended in their recent report that the future Special Administrative Region government needed to set up a mechanism to assess foreign degrees.