

5 boat brides in China

ONLY five boat brides remain in China under a 1986 Sino-Hongkong agreement which gave more than 1,200 mainland women the right to live in the territory with their fishermen husbands.

The Immigration Department has said that 1,247 boat brides have arrived in the territory on one-way permits issued by the Guangdong authorities since 1986, with another five pending return to the territory.

"The boat bride problem handled by the Chinese and Hongkong governments will be completely resolved when the five arrive," a department spokesman said.

However, there are still mainland Chinese women married to local fishermen who are waiting to come to Hongkong, according to the Zhuhai Municipal Hongkong and Macau Floating Fishermen Association.

A spokesman said more than 100 mainland women who had married local fishermen after August 10, 1986, and were therefore not included in the migration agreement, were applying to join their families in Hongkong.

The issue began when 14 women were repatriated from the Yau Ma Tei typhoon shelter to China.