



# Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 13

December, 2008

## ACS Appointment System Coming Soon

This newsletter is published by the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit, U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai. If there are any particular topics you are interested in, please contact ACS at: [ShanghaiACS@state.gov](mailto:ShanghaiACS@state.gov).

Warm winter greetings from the American Citizen Services Section! We have exciting news to share. In order to serve you better and reduce unnecessary wait time at our office for services, starting next year, U.S. Consulate Shanghai's American Citizen Services (ACS) office will implement an appointment system.

Please keep in mind that ACS is closed for American and local holidays; please see our website for the most up-to-date information.

Visitors may receive several services during the same visit to American Citizen Services.

Please make a separate appointment for each individual service. In order to allow for sufficient time to clear security and enter the waiting room, please arrive at least (10) fifteen minutes before your appointment time.

Scheduled appointments will be automatically canceled for applicants who arrive more than (15) fifteen minutes after their scheduled time. Applicants who arrive late must make a new appointment via the ACS website.

No appointments are necessary to:

- \*\* Apply for Reports of Death
- \*Report a passport lost / stolen when you are in urgent need to travel outside of China. Bring proof of pending travel to ACS
- \*\*Warden Registration may be done online
- \*\*Pick up passport and/or Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) upon notification when they are ready
- \*\*Pick up Social Security checks or ask questions about Social Security benefits
- \*\*Submit additional documents requested for a pending passport application
- \*\*Register to vote
- \*\*Attend Tuesday American Citizens' Visa Hour at 3-4pm
- \*\*Attend Wednesday Education Hour at 3:30-4:30pm

If you have questions, please email inquiries to [ShanghaiACS@state.gov](mailto:ShanghaiACS@state.gov).

### Inside this issue:

Recent Travel Alerts	2
Updated Procedures of International Adoption	3
The Department of State Passport Application Wizard	3
Replacing a Lost or Stolen Passport	4
Health Information on Avian Influenza and Bird Flu	4
Leaving Consular District?	5

We hope to provide even more timely response and assist you in planning ahead and budgeting your time for services offered including birth certificates, passport services, notaries, marriage-ability affidavits, and more. We have seen the success of this system in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Beijing, and would like to offer it to citizens coming to the Shanghai Consulate.

Customers will be required to make an appointment via the ACS website for all routine services, including:

- \*\* Obtaining a U.S. passport for minors and adults - renewal, lost/stolen, first issuance, etc.
- \*\*Adding visa pages to a U.S. passport.
- \*\*Applying for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) and first U.S. passport for children.
- \*\*Returning to submit additional documents for a pending CRBA application.
- \*\*Notarial Services.
- \*\*Marriage-ability Affidavit.

Our ACS business hours will remain the same:  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:00 – 11:30 am , 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Tuesday: 8:00 – 11:30 am ONLY

## Upcoming Holidays and Other Closures

Please remember that the days just before and just after a holiday are often extremely busy and you can expect significantly longer waiting times. If you visit us outside of these times,

you should have a shorter wait.

The American Citizen Services Unit will be **CLOSED** all day on the following days:

- Dec. 25 & 26, 08,  
Thur. & Friday  
Christmas Closure
- Jan. 1, 09, Thur.  
New Year's Day
- Jan. 19, 09, Mon.  
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

### Special points of interest:

- \* Consulate Will Host The Next FSO Test In Feb 09
- \* Frequent Questions about Chinese visa

## Consulate Will Host The Next FSO Test in Feb 09

Firm dates of testing are still TBD, but testing will take place sometime during the week of February 7-14, 2009. Stay tuned for



more information on dates that testing will take place.

Additional detailed information can be found at <http://www.careers.state.gov/office/register.html> where you can also register to take the test.

If candidates have any questions regarding scheduling, rescheduling, or canceling a test appointment, they should contact ACT at [fsot@act.org](mailto:fsot@act.org), or call 1-319-341-2500, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm CST Monday through Friday.

## Recent Travel Alerts

### **INDIA**

**December 04, 2008**

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens about heightened security concerns in India, and advises U.S. citizens traveling to or already in India to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. This replaces the Travel Alert issued on November 29 and expires on January 5, 2009, advises U.S. citizens of recent security procedures for travelers, and reminds them of the need to exercise caution when visiting India.

American citizens in India are advised that the Government of India has ordered heightened security measures at airports and the surrounding areas throughout India. The Government of India has alerted airline security officials that threat information has been received targeting airports on or around December 4 through December 6. All major airports

in India, including those in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Kochi, have been placed on high alert following threats of airport attacks and hijacking of planes.

The Department of State advises Americans planning to travel to Mumbai in the aftermath of the November 26 terrorist attacks to recognize that it may be some time before all public infrastructure and services return to normal. Emotions are running high and there are possibilities of demonstrations that could turn violent.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

### **THAILAND**

**December 04, 2008**

The State Department alerts U.S. citizens that the recent large-scale political demonstrations in Thailand disrupted airport services and sparked isolated incidents of violence. Bangkok's international and domestic airports, Suvarnabhumi International Airport and Don Muang Airport, are gradually reopening and reinstating flights. While the political demonstrations that closed the airports have ceased, political instability in Thailand remains, and renewed demonstrations with consequent impact on services affecting Americans are possible. This supersedes the Travel Alert for Thailand issued December 2, 2008

Americans who plan to travel to or transit Bangkok should monitor local media and contact airlines for the latest information regarding airport operations as normal operations resume. Americans will also find useful information on U.S. Embassy Bangkok's website at [bangkok.usembassy.gov](http://bangkok.usembassy.gov).

## Notice from USCIS: Updated Procedures of International Adoption

On August 26, 2008, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) published in the *Federal Register* a notice expanding the Direct Mail Program to include Form I-800A, *Application for Determination of Suitability to Adopt a Child from a Convention Country*, and Form 1-800, *Petition to Classify Convention Adoptee as an Immediate Relative*.

Beginning on September 25, 2008, prospective adoptive parent(s) (PAPs) will be required to file I-800A and 1-800 petitions with the USCIS Chicago Lockbox facility rather than with a USCIS field office. The expansion of the Direct Mail Program to include the Hague Adoption Convention forms is part of the USCIS initiative to increase efficiency in case management, maximize staff productivity, and improve customer service. The USCIS Chicago Lockbox facility will receive all Hague Adoption Convention Forms I-800A, 1-800, related supplements, and required fees. The Lockbox facility will then route the Form I-800A packet to the National Benefits Center (NBC) for adjudication. Upon receipt, the NBC will mail the PAPs an acknowledgment letter. In addition, PAPs that reside within the U.S. will receive an Application Support Center appointment notice for biometrics capture.

On or after October 27, 2008, USCIS overseas field offices will reject and return any incorrectly filed Form I-800A, Form 1-800 or related supplements with filing fees to the PAPs with a rejection letter directing them to mail the application with required fees directly to the USCIS Chicago Lockbox address for processing.

Although Forms I-800A, 1-800, and related supplements will be rejected on and after October 27, 2008, an overseas USCIS field office, or a U.S. Consulate or Embassy will continue to accept and prepare Form FD-258, *Applicant Fingerprint Card*, for PAPs (and adult members of the household, if applicable) in need of biometric fingerprint services.

In addition to taking fingerprints, officers will ensure that all necessary biographical information requested on the upper portion of Form FD-258 is provided. In particular, the section entitled, "*Reason Fingerprinted*" should state "Form I-800A." All Forms FD-258 must be mailed in a sealed envelope to the National Benefits Center at the address provided below:



USCIS National Benefits Center  
Attention: Hague Adoptions  
Department of Homeland Security  
850 N.W. Chipman Road, Suite  
5000

Lee's Summit, MO 64063

As of September 25, 2008, prospective adoptive parent(s) are required to file Forms 1-800A, 1-800, related supplements, supporting documents, and filing fees, with the USCIS Chicago Lockbox Facility at:

Direct Mail:

USCIS

P.O. Box 805695

Chicago, IL 60680-4118

Non-United States Postal Service deliveries (e.g., private couriers)

USCIS

Attn: Hague

131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor

Chicago, IL, 60603-5517

For information about USCIS forms and filing instructions, you may access the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). If you have any questions regarding the Hague Adoption Convention, please contact the NBC at: [NBC.Hague@dhs.gov](mailto:NBC.Hague@dhs.gov) or 1-877-4248374. The USCIS Beijing office can be reached at 010-8531-3111, Office Fax: 010-8531-3100.

## The Department of State Passport Application Wizard

When applying for a passport at the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, the American Citizen Services unit highly recommends that all applicants visit the online Passport Application Wizard (<https://pptform.state.gov/>). The Wizard will help you determine which form you need (Form DS-11, DS-82, DS-5504 or DS-4085), then help you to complete the form online, estimate your payment, and generate the form for you to print and submit.

Also, if your passport is ever lost or stolen, you can use the Wizard to print out a Statement Regarding Lost or Stolen Passport (DS-64). And if you are applying for a minor's passport and both parents cannot sign the application together, you can use the Wizard to print out a Statement of Consent (DS-3053).

## Health Information

### Avian Influenza in Hong Kong

On December 9, the Hong Kong government elevated the alert for Avian Influenza (AI) to "serious", after discovering the H5 virus in live chickens at a chicken farm in Yeun Long, New Territories, Hong Kong. In light of the elevated alert status, we would like all Americans traveling or living in Hong Kong to be aware of the latest information on AI. The Hong Kong Government maintains up-to-date information on AI on their website: <http://www.info.gov.hk/info/flu/eng/index.htm>.

For further information about Avian Influenza, please consult the United States Centers for Disease Control Website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/> or the U.S. State Department fact sheet at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health\\_1181.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1181.html)

### Bird Flu Infection in Cambodia

Cambodia's Health Ministry confirmed on Dec. 12 the country's eighth human case of virulent bird flu since 2005.

The ministry said in a statement with the United Nation's World Health Organization that a 19-year-old man from Kandal province, southeast of the capital Phnom Penh, was confirmed to have the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus in laboratory tests on Thursday.

Ly Sovann, a health ministry expert on bird flu, said the victim became sick after touching a dead chicken that had been raised at his home.

On Thursday, the WHO's regional chief urged Asian governments not to let down their guard, saying a new outbreak among poultry in China's Hong Kong showed the disease still poses a threat.

"This is an indication that we have to remain vigilant," Shigeru Omi said in Malaysia. "Constant vigilance is the key." Omi said the outbreak in Hong

Kong was "not unexpected because the virus is still circulating in the world, and certainly in this part of the world."

Twenty countries had outbreaks during the first nine months of 2008, down from 25 in the same period last year, UN officials said.

Some officials worry the public has lost interest because the virus has so far not mutated into a form that could spread easily among people.

It remains hard for people to catch, with most human cases linked to contact with infected birds.

*(Shanghai Daily)*



## Replacing a Lost or Stolen Passport

If your passport was lost or stolen during this holiday season, please follow the procedures to apply for a replacement passport:

### Personal Appearance

In the case of an applicant under age 16, both parents should also come to the Consulate, or one parent may apply with the written consent of the other.

Bring a lost passport report, which you can get from: The Shanghai Entry/Exit Bureau (EEB), 1500 Min Sheng Road, Pudong, Shanghai, Tel: 2895-1900 (press 2 for the operator). This report is also necessary to ensure your smooth departure from Shanghai after we issue a new passport.

Passport application form (DS-11), Affidavit (DS-64), Proof of your Identity, such as copy of lost/stolen US passport, US drivers license, U.S. state ID and/or Military ID. Two Photos must be 2" X 2" (5 cm X 5 cm).

The fee for a replacement passport is U.S. \$100.00 for adults and \$85.00 for children (or RMB equivalent), cash or credit card.

## Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

U.S. Consulate General,  
Shanghai, China  
1038 West Nanjing  
Road, Westgate Mall, 8th  
Floor

Tel: (86-21) 3217-4650  
ext. 2102, 2103, 2114,  
2142

Fax: (86-21) 6217-2071

After Hours  
Emergencies:

(86-21) 6433-3936

Open 8:00am - 11:30am  
and 1:30pm - 3:30pm  
Monday to Friday.

\*Closed on Tuesday  
afternoons, weekends  
and holidays.

[http://shanghai.usemba  
ssy-china.org.cn/](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/)

## Frequently Asked Questions about Chinese Visa:

### Q1. What's the type of my visa?

A: L= Tourist Visa; F= Business Visa; Z=Working Visa; X= Student Visa.

\*As Chinese laws, if you hold an F visa, you are not allow to get incoming pay-ment here. that means, if you have sign the contract with the company and will start your full-time job here in Shanghai, it's better for you to ask for the work-ing(Z) visa and residence permit from your company. Otherwise, the govern-ment may fine you and your company because of the illegal employment.

### Q2. What can I do if I hold a Travel (L) Visa and want to stay more time inside of China?

A: L visa can be extend twice, and each time 1 month.

### Q3. Can I get a Half year & Multi-entry Business (F) visa inside of China?

A: From 3rd Nov 2008. The 3 or 6 month F visa is available again, if you have the L visa right now, you can renew it to 3-6 month continous F visa with 1-Multi entries without leaving the country. If you have the F visa right now, you can extend it for another 3-6 month continous F visa with 1-Multi entries without leaving the country! Just notice that you should submit your application 5 days or earlier before it expires.

### Q4. If my visa expired and overstay in Shanghai, what can I do and how much fine should I pay?

A: As the Chinese immigration law, if your visa expired less than 10 days, it's not necessary to pay any fine, you have to go to the immigration office, the offi-cer will ask some questiones and put down your words in writing and make a record. They will also notice you don't break that again. If your visa expired more than 10 days, they will charge you fine, the fine is 500RMB per day except the first 10 days, and the maxmium is 5000RMB. for example, if you overstay 12 days, they will charge (12-10)\*500=1000RMB.

**Address:** No.1500 Min Shen Rd. , PuDong, Shanghai, China.

**Telephone:** 021-28951900 Working Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9:00—17:00

## Leaving Shanghai Consular District?

If you are departing from Shanghai consular district after a long stay here, and you formally registered your stay with the U.S. consulate, please be sure to "cancel" your registration when you leave.

You can deregister yourself by visiting the travelregistra-tion.state.gov site if you were

previously registered through this site.

If you previously submitted your registration at the U.S. consulate, you may deregister yourself by sending an email request to ShanghaiACS@state.gov.



FreeFoto.com