



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 28

May, 2010

Shanghai Expo 2010

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.

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The Shanghai Expo 2010 began May 1 and runs through October 31, 2010. The Expo features national, themed, and corporate pavilions (building-sized exhibitions) over a two-square-mile (5.28-square-kilometer) area on both sides of Shanghai's Huangpu River. The organizers of Shanghai Expo 2010 expect tens of millions of visitors from all over the world.

The United States of America is an official participant in the Shanghai Expo 2010, joining more than 240 other national, regional, international organization, and corporate exhibitors. The USA Pavilion is made possible through a public/private partnership: the Pavilion's design, construction, and operation

are the result of a partnership with the private sector, and Pavilion funding comes from the private sector and other partners. Several U.S. companies and state and local governments are exhibitors at the Expo. National Days and other special celebrations for exhibitors will occur throughout the 184 days of the Expo. Friday, July 2, has been designated as the USA National Day at the Expo.

The Expo 2010 web site (<http://en.expo2010.cn>) provides information about events, tickets, and transportation. The USA Pavilion web site (<http://www.usapavilion2010.com>) provides information about the USA National Pavilion.

Upcoming Holidays and Other Closures

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

May 31, Mon:
U.S. Memorial Day

June 16, Wed:
Dragon Boat Festival

July 5, Mon:
U.S. Independence Day

A full list of all of our holiday closings is available online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>.

Please understand that our office is often very busy on the day before and the day after a holiday closure so you should expect longer wait times if you come on such days. If you visit us outside of these time periods, you should experience a shorter wait than pre-/post- holiday closure days.

Special points of interest:

- * **Traveler's Checklist:** Know Before You Go by DHS's CBP
- * McNeil Announces Recall of Certain OTC Products
- * New Design for U.S. \$100 Bill Unveiled
- * IRS Corner: Taking Your Domestic Helper To The U.S. On Vacation?

Ensure Your Vote Counts – June, July State Primaries Around The Corner!

The following states will hold Primary Elections during the months of June and July, 2010 on the dates indicated:

June 1, 2010: Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico

June 8, 2010: California, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia
June 22, 2010: Utah
July 20, 2010: Georgia
July 27, 2010: Oklahoma

Register and request your ballot now! Ballot applications and instructions for the above States are available at www.fvap.gov/FPCA. Click on your State on the map and follow the instructions.

Security Situation - Travel Warnings and Alerts

Security reminder: It is prudent for you and your family to review your personal security profile and to be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new **Travel Warnings** for the following countries:

<u>Nigeria</u>	05/24/2010
<u>Burundi</u>	05/19/2010
<u>Thailand</u>	05/15/2010
<u>Cote d'Ivoire</u>	05/12/2010
<u>Niger</u>	05/11/2010
<u>Mexico</u>	05/06/2010
<u>Georgia</u>	05/03/2010

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new **Travel Alerts:**

<u>Jamaica</u>	05/24/2010
<u>Mozambique</u>	04/30/2010
<u>India</u>	04/16/2010
<u>Malaysia</u>	04/16/2010

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html.

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and **prohibited items** on flights can be viewed online at <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>.

For additional information, please visit "**Americans Traveling Abroad**" on the U.S. Department of State website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html. Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 1-888-407-4747 (toll free in the United States), or +1-202-501-4444 if you are outside the United States.

You may also visit the Consular Affairs twitter page at <http://twitter.com/TravelGov>.

U.S. Customs & Border Protection - Global Entry Program

Global Entry is a program designed by U.S. Customs & Border Protection (DHS-CBP) to expedite international air travel by allowing pre-approved travelers the use of an automated kiosk to clear passport control. This means no more waiting in line upon arrival and no forms to fill out on the plane. Participation in the Global Entry pilot is voluntary. Membership is currently limited to U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals and U.S. Legal Permanent

Residents, as well as to citizens of the Netherlands via a joint arrangement as "FLUX."

A \$100 non-refundable application fee is charged at the time of application and membership is valid for 5 years. There are Global Entry automated kiosks at airports such as Washington Dulles (IAD), Los Angeles International (LAX), John F. Kennedy (JFK), Honolulu International (HNL),

and many more. Currently, 20 airports are participating in Global Entry.

If you are a frequent traveler and often need additional pages in your passport, Global Entry is for you since stamping the passport is not required. For more details and to sign up for Global Entry, visit the following website: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted_traveler/global_entry/.

Traveler's Checklist — Know Before You Go

The Department of Homeland Security's Customs & Border Protection agency (DHS-CBP) has a website called Know Before You Go that offers several useful checklists and FAQ pages.

www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg

Here's a sample checklist:

Do I have:

1. U.S. Passport or other recommended ID for U.S. citizens? (Carry it; do not pack it).
2. Green Card (Form I-551) or document for Lawful Permanent Residents? (Advance Parole if LPR status is pending). Failure to have Form I-551 or document

for lawful permanent residents could result in a \$545 waiver fee.

3. Notarized travel permission letters for minors traveling without their parents? Entry documentation for the country(ies) I will be visiting? (Is a visa required?)
4. Only the medication that I need for my trip and in its original container?
5. Receipts or registration paperwork (CBP Form 4457) for any new electronics, such as a camera or laptop that I'm taking with me? (Only suggested if traveling with recently purchased goods. Not necessary for goods more than 6 months old.)
6. Proof of Rabies vaccinations for my dogs if they are traveling with me?

(Recommended but not required for cats. Check for requirements regarding other pets.)

7. Permits and/or certificates if bringing restricted animal and plant commodities regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

8. Appraisals or receipts if I'm traveling with a lot of new jewelry?

9. Valid driver's license? Do I need an international driver's license in the country I am visiting?

10. An envelope into which to put all the receipts for my purchases? (This will make filling out the CBP declaration easier.)

Replacing a Lost or Stolen Passport

If your passport is ever lost or stolen, please follow these procedures to apply for a replacement passport:

- 1) **Obtain a lost passport report from the nearest Chinese Entry/Exit Bureau (EEB) office. (In Shanghai, it's located at 1500 Min Sheng Road, Pudong, Shanghai, Tel: (86-21) 2895-1900, press 2 for the operator).** This report is necessary to ensure your smooth departure from China after we issue a new passport.
- 2) Come to our office to submit a passport application form (DS-11), affidavit (DS-64), proof of your identity (ex: a copy of the lost/stolen US passport, your **US drivers license, U.S. state ID and/or Military ID**), and **two identical 2" X 2" (5 cm X 5 cm)** photos. We also need to see your EEB lost/stolen passport report. 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.
- 3) Take your new passport and the EEB lost/stolen passport report back to the EEB to obtain a new Chinese visa.

**For applicants under age 16, both parents must also come to the Consulate with the applicant. [If one parent cannot come in person (because, for example, s/he is not in China), then the under-16 applicant may apply with the notarized written consent of the other parent.]

McNeil Consumer Healthcare Announces Voluntary Recall of Certain OTC Infants' and Children's Products

Fort Washington, PA. McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Division of McNeil-PPC, Inc., in consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is voluntarily recalling all lots that have not yet expired of certain over-the-counter (OTC) Children's and Infants' liquid products manufactured in the United States and distributed in the United States, Canada, Dominican Republic, Dubai (UAE), Fiji, Guam, Guatemala, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, and Kuwait.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare is initiating this voluntary recall because some of these products may not meet required quality standards. This recall is not being undertaken on the basis of adverse medical events. However, as a precautionary measure, parents and caregivers should not administer

these products to their children. Some of the products included in the recall may contain a higher concentration of active ingredient than is specified; others may contain inactive ingredients that may not meet internal testing requirements; and others may contain tiny particles. While the potential for serious medical events is remote, the company advises consumers who have purchased these recalled products to discontinue use.

The company is conducting a comprehensive quality assessment across its manufacturing operations and has identified corrective actions that will be implemented before new manufacturing is initiated at the plant where the recalled products were made. Consumers can contact the company at 1-888-222-6036 and also at www.mcneilproductrecall.com. Parents

and caregivers who are not sure about alternative pediatric health treatment options should talk to their doctor or pharmacist and are reminded to never give drug products to infants and children that are not intended for those age groups as this could result in serious harm.

For additional information, including affected NDC numbers, consumers should visit www.mcneilproductrecall.com or call 1-888-222-6036 (Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern Time, and Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time). Any adverse reactions **may also be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Program** by fax at 1-800-FDA-0178, by mail at MedWatch, FDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787, or on the MedWatch website at www.fda.gov/medwatch.

Consulate Will Host The Next FSO Test in June 2010



The next Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) will be offered at the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai in June 2010. However, all test slots are already full. Additional detailed information can be found at <http://careers.state.gov/officer/testinfo.html>, where you can also regis-

ter to take the next offering of the test.

If candidates have any technical questions or issues with the registration process, they should contact ACT, Inc. at fsot@act.org, or call (800) 205-6358.

Leaving Shanghai Consular District?

If you are departing the Shanghai consular district after a long stay here and you formally registered your stay with the U.S. Consulate, please do not forget to cancel your registration when you leave.

You can unregister yourself by visiting the <https://travelregistration.state.gov>

site if you previously registered through this site.

If you previously submitted a paper registration form to the U.S. consulate, you may unregister yourself by sending an email request to:

ShanghaiACS@state.gov.



Tax Information Available on the Internet

The most comprehensive resource for taxes on the web is the Internal Revenue Service website: www.irs.gov. There is a page on that site that is specifically designed for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>.

Federal Tax forms can be obtained online at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>.

Please note that the IRS has just released the latest comprehensive guide for your 2009 taxes called Publication 17. You can read all about it and download it here: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=216665,00.html>.

Also useful is Publication 4732, which contains specific tax information for Americans living abroad and can be downloaded at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4732.pdf>.

For more information on U.S. taxes, please consult the list of websites and telephone numbers below to help find the forms and answers you need.

Tax guidance for people in the military: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/index.html>

Electronic payment website: <http://www.eftps.gov/>

Refund information: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96596,00.html?portlet=4>

Phone Services

Individuals: 1-800-829-1040*
Businesses: 1-800-829-4933*

For routine tax return and preparation questions, you may call the International Taxpayer Help Line in Philadelphia at 1-215-516-2000.

- Refund Inquiries: 1-800-829-4477 *
- TeleTax: 1-800-829-4477
- ITINs after 6 weeks: 1-800-829-1040 *
- Exempt Organization Help Desk: 1-877-829-5500 *
- Tax Offset Program (TOP) Help Desk: 1-800-304-3107
- E-Services Help Desk: 1-512-416-7750

(* Please note: Toll-free numbers (aka "1-800 numbers" are generally for use only within the U.S., but can be called using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services such as Vonage, Lingo or Skype. If you do not have access to one of these services, a direct dial phone number is listed on the IRS website.)

State Tax Returns: For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>. State tax forms are available on <http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/link/forms.html>. The Consulate does not provide any state tax forms or state tax information.

Overseas Taxpayers Get Automatic 2-Month Filing Extension

U.S. income tax returns were due on April 15th. If you reside overseas, however, you are given an automatic two month extension to file. However, any tax money you owe must be paid by April 15th to avoid paying interest and possibly penalties. Note: Payments are not considered received until the date of actual receipt by the IRS, not the postmark date.

Treasury Department Unveils New Design for U.S. \$100 Bill

Officials from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the United States Secret Service on April 21 unveiled the new design for the \$100 note. Complete with advanced technology to combat counterfeiting, the new design for the \$100 note retains the traditional look of U.S. currency. "When the new design \$100 note is issued, the approximately 6.5 billion older design \$100s already in circulation will remain legal tender," said Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board

Ben S. Bernanke. "U.S. currency users should know they will not have to trade in their older design \$100 notes when the new ones begin circulating." For more information, including a video, please visit the following webpages:

http://www.newmoney.gov/media/release_04212010.htm
<http://www.newmoney.gov/newmoney/Splashpage.aspx>

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U.S. Consulate General, Shanghai, China

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

IRS Corner:

Question: I am planning for the summer and would like to take my domestic helper to the U.S. for a family trip so that she can help me look after my children. Assuming our helper qualifies and obtains a U.S. visa, I understand we need to have a U.S. employment contract and that we need to pay at least the prevailing wage equivalent for the location in the U.S. in which we will stay. Please advise if we need to pay U.S. employment tax for the income our helper will earn while in the U.S.

Answer: Assuming your helper qualifies and obtains a U.S. visa, if he/she is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident ("Green Card" holder) and does not have a U.S. social security number, you do not have to pay U.S. employment tax for your helper, so long as your trip is just a visit and you are not moving back to reside in the United States. For information on the prevailing wage by locality and how to draft a U.S. employment contract, please refer to the Non-Immigrant Visas section of the Consulate website: http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/domestic_employee_visas.html.

Does The Service You Need Require An Appointment?

The Shanghai American Citizen Services Unit now uses an on-line appointment system for all non-emergency services. We hope that this tool will assist you in budgeting your time and that it will reduce the wait time during traditionally high-traffic hours.

Appointments are necessary to:

- Obtain a U.S. passport for minors and adults
- Add visa pages to a U.S. passport
- Apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) and first U.S. passport for children
- Submit additional documents for a pending CRBA application
- Obtain notarial services
- Complete a Marriage-ability Affidavit

Visitors may receive several services during the same visit to American Citizen Services. Please make a separate appointment for each individual service.

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before your appointment time, to allow time to clear security.

Scheduled appointments will be automatically canceled for applicants who arrive over 15 minutes after their scheduled time.

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
- Register with the Consulate
- Pick up passport and/or Consular Report of

Birth Abroad (CRBA) upon notification

- Pick up Social Security checks or ask questions about SSA benefits
- Submit additional documents for a pending passport application
- Register to vote
- Apply for a Travel Letter (applies to Legal Permanent Residents only)
- Pick up re-entry permits (applies to Legal Permanent Residents only)
- Abandon permanent resident status
- Attend Tuesday American Citizens' Visa Hour at 3-4pm
- Attend Wednesday Education Hour at 3:30-4:30pm