



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 73

February 2014

Telemarketing Scams Targeting Rich And Famous On The Rise

Leaving China?

Did you know that you can end your enrollment with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) by visiting the step.state.gov site? If you previously submitted a paper enrollment form to the U.S. consulate, you may end your enrollment by sending an email request to: ShanghaiACS@state.gov.

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Source: Gao Changxin, China Daily | January 13, 2014

Tang Wei, the Chinese movie star who rose to fame after her role in 2007's "Lust, Caution," warned her fans to beware of telemarketing scams on Saturday after she was reportedly conned out of 210,000 yuan (\$34,700) while working in Shanghai's Songjiang district.

The Songjiang district police department confirmed on Sunday that the actress had reported being the victim of a scam but said, "We have nothing more to share with the media right now."

An assistant to Tang spoke about the incident to Sina's news website, saying the star is now "calm" and urged fans to guard against such scams.

Tang, 34, began her career as a model before rising to fame in Oscar-winning director Ang Lee's espionage thriller "Lust, Caution." The movie, which also starred Hong Kong actor Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, was a huge success in China, grossing \$17 million.

Tang received Best New Actress at the Venice Film Festival for her performance, and she has since gone on to star in various Chinese movies and TV shows.

Telemarketing scams have become a growing problem in China, often targeting the rich and famous.

The Shanghai Public Security Bureau said last week that telemarketing complaints were up 40 percent in 2013 compared to the previous year, with expatriates making up 1 percent of the victims.

Fraudsters often impersonate law enforcement officers and attempt to scare people into transferring money to "safety accounts". Victims were often retirees and elderly people unfamiliar with new technology, but more young and educated people are falling victim to the scams, police said.

Many telemarketing operators are based outside China, authorities say, making it hard for police to take action.

In December, Shanghai police and their counterparts in Cambodia busted 21 people from the mainland and Taiwan accused of swindling a mainland citizen of more than 20 million yuan.

Wang Jun, a saleswoman in Shanghai, said she received several messages in which a fraudster pretended to be her landlord and asked her to deposit her rent into a bank account. "I'm smart enough to tell it's a scam, but I can't say that for everyone," she said.

Police Probe 2 Foreigners In Alleged Slapping

Source: Yang Meiping, Shanghai Daily | February 7, 2014

Shanghai police are investigating two foreigners who allegedly slapped a 6-year-old Chinese boy at Pudong International Airport yesterday.

A witness said the boy had been playing with a trolley in the baggage claim area when it scraped against another pushed by a foreign woman, who then slapped the boy.

The witness, who gave her surname as Tang, said the slap was so hard

that it knocked one of the boy's teeth out and his face was swollen.

Tang posted two pictures on her microblog, showing the foreigners and the boy's red and swollen right cheek.

The boy and Tang were in a tourist group returning from Maldives and going on to Wuxi in Jiangsu Province, Tang said.

The boy's parents and other group members quarreled with the woman, as well as her male friend

who turned up later, according to Tang.

"The woman said she would like to pay the boy 50 yuan (US\$8) to settle the dispute," Tang said. Police were called and they took the foreigners, the boy and his parents to the station at the airport, according to Tang.

A staff member of the French consulate general in Shanghai also went to the police station, suggesting that the foreigners were French, Tang said.

Alert Remains As Smog Continues To Shroud North, Central China

Source: Xinhua | February 23, 2014

China's top meteorological authority today continued to warn of smoggy weather that has battered parts of China for days. The National Meteorological Center (NMC) issued a yellow alert for smog this morning, the fourth straight day such an alert has been announced.

Smog will persist from this morning till tomorrow morning in Beijing and Tianjin municipalities, as well as parts of Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Shanxi and Shaanxi provinces, the NMC said. The NMC forecast that smog will ease on Thursday when a cold front is expected to bring about wind.

China's meteorological disaster alerts are categorized as blue, yellow, orange and red in order of increasing severity.

Someone Asked The Consul:

How Can I Get My "Non-Criminal Record"?

U.S. citizens may be asked to present a "certificate of good conduct" or "lack of a criminal record" for a variety of reasons for use abroad including adoption, school attendance, employment, etc. U.S. law enforcement authorities may not be familiar with such a procedure since it is not commonly requested in the United States. There are a variety of options available to U.S. citizens seeking to obtain proof of their lack of a criminal record. **You should check with the requesting entity what type of record they are seeking.**

For information on obtaining a Criminal Record Check and fingerprinting, please see [this page](#) of the Travel.State.gov website. For information on where to get your fingerprints taken or how to have your police or FBI certificates for lack of a criminal record authenticated, please refer to <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/recordcheck.html> and <http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/fingerprinting.html>.

Travel Warnings And Alerts

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.

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.

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

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

2/21/2014 [Egypt](#)

2/20/2014 [Ukraine](#)
 2/20/2014 [Afghanistan](#)
 2/14/2014 [Thailand](#)
 2/11/2014 [Saudi Arabia](#)
 2/07/2014 [Somalia](#)
 2/07/2014 [Russian Federation](#)
 2/06/2014 [Algeria](#)
 2/05/2014 [Pakistan](#)
 2/03/2014 [Israel, The West Bank and Gaza](#)
 1/31/2014 [Lebanon](#)
 1/29/2014 [Yemen](#)
 1/15/2014 [South Pacific Cyclone Season](#)

Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our closures is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

<u>February 28, 2014, Friday</u>	Administrative Closure	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì
<u>March 7, 2014, Friday</u>	Administrative Closure	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì
<u>April 4, 2014, Friday</u>	Administrative Closure	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì
<u>April 7, 2014, Monday</u>	Tomb Sweeping Day	清明节	Qīngmíng Jié

American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General, Shanghai, China, 1038 West Nanjing Road, 8/F
 Westgate Mall 梅龙镇广场 (Méi Lóng Zhèn Guǎng Chǎng)

To Make Or Cancel An Appointment:

<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=SHG&appcode=1>
 Mon - Fri *Closed on Wednesday afternoons, weekends, and holidays.

After Hours Emergencies: (86-21) 3217-4650

Homepage: shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html