



# ACS Newsletter

VIETNAM

APRIL 2015

*The monthly newsletter of the American Citizen Services Units of the U.S. Embassy Hanoi and the U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City*

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## Upcoming U.S. Citizens Services Visits

Officials from the U.S. Citizen Services unit in Ho Chi Minh City will offer consular services in April at the following locations:

**Vung Tau** on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Imperial Hotel, 159 Thuy Van, Vung Tau City

**Da Lat** on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Dalat Palace Hotel, 12 Tran Phu, Da Lat

Consulate officials will offer notarial services, deliver federal benefits checks, and U.S. citizens will be able to apply



for U.S. passports. Federal benefits annuitants may sign in during the visit.

At this time, officials will not be interviewing for consular

reports of birth abroad. Also, visa and immigration services will not be provided. Only the services listed will be available during the visits.

For additional information concerning applying for U.S. passports and notary services please see our Website at: <http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/service.html>

## April Holiday Closures

The Embassy and Consulate will be closed on the following days:

**Tuesday, April 28th– National Anniversary of Hung Kings\***  
**Thursday, April 30th– Victory Day\***

A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2015 is available on-line at <http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/holidays.html>

\*Vietnamese Holiday  
+American Holiday

# It's Tax Time!

## *Who Must File?*

All U.S. citizens and resident aliens must file a U.S. individual income tax return, even if they permanently live outside the United States and may not owe any tax because of income exclusion or tax credit.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has provided guidance for U.S. citizens abroad preparing for the 2015 tax filing season. This IRS guidance is posted under [Federal Benefits and Obligations](#) on [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

## Services for U.S. Citizens

The Consulate General in **Ho Chi Minh City** uses a service-by-appointment system. Please visit our Website at <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=HCM&appcode=1> to make an appointment to apply for a U.S. passport, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, as well as for notary services, authentications, and additional visa pages.

Those with genuine emergencies, such as the death, arrest, or life threatening illness of a U.S. citizen, can appear on a walk-in basis from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday (except Vietnamese and American public holidays) or call us any time at (84-8) 3520-4200.

Every day we have a number of no-shows for routine services. If you make an appointment and find you cannot keep it, please log back into the appointment system and cancel the appointment so that the appointment slot will be available to another client.

Those picking up passports, Federal Benefits checks/correspondence, or submitting additional information related to a Consular Report of Birth Abroad case do not need to make an appointment but can do so between the hours of 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, excluding Vietnamese and American holidays.

Hours for **Hanoi** are 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All services in Hanoi are by appointment only. You may book an appointment by going to the website: [http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/acs\\_appointmentsystem.html](http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/acs_appointmentsystem.html). For emergencies you can call the Embassy any time at (84-4) 3850-5000.



# Creating Artwork for the 20th Anniversary



Consul General Rena Bitter paints large canvases for the 20th anniversary of Vietnamese-U.S. diplomatic

Working with three local artists, staff at the U.S. Consulate General took time to paint three large canvases for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vietnamese-U.S. diplomatic relations. The paintings represent Washington D.C., Ho Chi Minh City, and a specially designed logo that celebrates the twentieth anniversary of re-establishing diplomatic relations.

Preparations for the project began two months ago, when the Consulate General decided to highlight the 20<sup>th</sup>

anniversary through artwork. A number of designs were considered. The choice was to depict Washington D.C. and Ho Chi Minh City, specifically, through a mix of famous iconic buildings.

"It is an important anniversary and we have a lot to celebrate," said Consul General Rena Bitter. "As Secretary of State Kerry said on his most recent visit to Vietnam, no two countries have come further together faster than the United States and Vietnam. Significant groundwork for the anniversary was laid in 2013 when President Sang and President Obama agreed to a Comprehensive Partnership between our two countries, identifying areas in which we have been cooperating, and will continue to cooperate. Our 20th anniversary celebrations highlight this cooperation, and are taking place throughout the

country during the whole year."

Artists Nguyen Hai Anh, Le Anh Can, and Nguyen T. Hoai Thuong helped organize the project, and showed Consulate General staff how to paint the canvases. The paintings will hang at the Consulate General in a public area of the visa section, where many Vietnamese will have a chance to see them.

## Did You Know?

For more information about obtaining or renewing a Vietnamese you can go to the website for the Embassy of Vietnam in

Washington DC at:

<http://vietnamembassy-usa.org/>

## Information on New Vietnamese Immigration Law

On **January 1, 2015**, the new law on Entry, Exit, Transit, and Residence of Foreigners in Vietnam came into effect. The new law may affect procedures for obtaining and using Vietnamese visas by foreign citizens. Under the new law, individuals can only use their

Vietnamese visa for the purpose that it was granted (i.e., an individual may not enter Vietnam as a tourist and then seek to change their visa class to be able to work or study). Those intending to work in Vietnam must first obtain a work permit *before*

applying for their work visa. For further information about these and other changes under the new law, please contact local immigration authorities or the Embassy of Vietnam in Washington DC.

# Travel Alerts and Warnings

The U.S. Department of State regularly issues travel alerts or travel warnings for various countries and regions. Travel warnings and alerts issued in the last month or so include Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Nigeria, Chad, Honduras and Syria.

The State Department has also issued an alert regarding potential implications for travel because of Ebola in parts of West Africa.

For information regarding all travel alerts and warnings, please go to this site: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html) On January 9, 2015, the Department

of State issued a Worldwide Caution on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world.



U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.



For the current advisory please visit <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/worldwide-caution.html>

## How to Contact Us

### **Hanoi**

American Citizen Services  
U.S. Embassy in Hanoi  
170 Ngoc Khanh, Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi, Vietnam

Email: [acshanoi@state.gov](mailto:acshanoi@state.gov)  
Telephone: (84-4) 3850-5000  
Fax: (84-4) 3850-5010

### **Ho Chi Minh City**

American Citizen Services  
U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City  
4 Le Duan, District 1  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

For routine inquiries, submit your question via: [http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/contact\\_acs.html](http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/contact_acs.html).  
Telephone: (84-8) 3520-4200 (for urgent assistance involving an arrest, death or life threatening illness)  
Fax: (84-8) 3520-4244

The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City are sending this monthly newsletter via the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) as a public service to U.S. citizens in Vietnam.

Please pass this newsletter on to any other U.S. citizens you may be aware of, and encourage them to enroll in STEP to receive the newsletter in the future.

This newsletter is also available on the U.S. Consulate's website at: <http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/service/monthly-newsletters.html>