

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.

FREQUENT INQUIRIES ABOUT IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Dear fellow American Citizens,

For the past couple of months, we have received an increasing number of complaints, inquiries and requests for assistance regarding immigration issues. Reports indicate that the Mongolian Immigration Authorities are becoming increasingly strict about enforcing immigration and visa regulations. We are working with the relevant authorities to clarify the situation, publicize any new regulations, and foster more travel between our two countries. We will also be happy to investigate any complaints or concerns that you may have with respect to immigration questions. However, the Mongolian Immigration Authority has sole authority to make the final decision on immigration issues. As long as the immigration authorities are acting in compliance with Mongolian law, then we are limited in our ability to intervene in the case.

On the other side, the Government of Mongolia has brought to our attention that in 2009 there were several cases of American citizens who failed to comply with Mongolian Immigration, Visa, and Residency regulations. The most common violations were: unauthorized employment (especially teaching English), engaging in religious activities without permission, failing to register within the seven day period, violating rules of residency, and overstaying their visas. We would like to remind you that all Americans in Mongolia are subject to Mongolian law and are required to follow Mongolian immigration rules. These include registering with the Mongolian Immigration Authority if you are planning to stay over 30 days, heeding the duration of your visas, not engaging in unauthorized employment or religious activity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov or visit us during our ACS hours (Mon & Thur 1-3 pm).

Thank you!



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DID YOU REMEMBER TO FILE YOUR TAXES ?

If not, don't worry. If you reside overseas or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return until June 15. However, any tax due must have been paid by the original return due date (April 15) to avoid interest charges.

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

STATE TAX RETURNS: For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>. The Embassy does not have state tax forms or state tax information.

* A special note for U.S. citizens who maintain in excess of \$10,000 in a foreign bank account: you are required to report your financial information in a Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) to the U.S. Department of Treasury before June 30th. This is separate from the filing of your income taxes with the IRS. For more information, please visit <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=148849,00.html>.

Americans are Encouraged to take the FSOT in Mongolia

U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar will be administering the Foreign Service Officer Test in Mongolia on June 12. American citizens interested in careers in the Foreign Service are encouraged to visit <http://careers.state.gov> to learn more about what the Foreign Service does and to register online for the test.

The deadline for registering for the test is May 24, 2010.



RFGP MONGOLIA: AMERICAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The Office of Citizen Exchanges at the U.S. Department of State has released the attached Request for Grant Proposals for the American Youth Leadership Program. Mongolia is one of the countries eligible for this program. The organizations interested in youth exchanges are encouraged to consider applying for this program. See the website link for more information

<http://exchanges.state.gov/media/pdfs/rfgps/rfgp052810.pdf>

The deadline is May 28, 2010.

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 links:

http://www.newmoney.gov/media/release_04212010.htm

<http://www.newmoney.gov/newmoney/Splashpage.aspx>

SECURITY ADVISORY

As the weather warms and the days become longer, people from all walks of life spend more time outside and attempt to break the solitude of being trapped inside during the cold winter months and unfortunately this includes criminals.

Spring time historically sees an increase in pick pockets, assaults, sexual assaults, and rapes. Mongolians chalk this phenomenon up to 'Spring Madness.'

Only a few weeks into the winter thaw, Ulaanbaatar expat community has seen a rash of pick pockets and an assault against foreigners. Assaults can occur anywhere at any time. Additionally, as we peel away and store the heavy winter jackets, we make ourselves vulnerable to pick pockets. The heavy winter jackets provided an extra layer of protection against wandering hands when at the supermarket or walking around tourist attractions. As the nights become warmer, street children and beggars will become more aggressive in their actions around the expat restaurants, bars, and supermarkets. If a specific establishment is known to have aggressive beggars frequent the perimeter with no security staff on hand, we advise you to avoid the establishment and take your business elsewhere. Finally, complaints to the establishment's management about the aggressive beggars and the threat

of taking your business elsewhere will hopefully alert them to the problem and the need to take immediate action.

All American citizens are reminded to exercise caution and good judgment:

- Avoid going anywhere alone. If you must travel alone, ensure you have your cell phone and that someone is aware of your plans.
- Be vigilant of your surroundings, even the area near your home can be a dangerous place.
- Maintain a low profile; do not draw unnecessary attention to yourself.
- When driving, ensure that your doors are locked and windows closed.
- Know where the nearest safe havens are located (police booths, 24 hour shops, bus stops, and restaurants).

Thankfully, there is no evidence that indicates U.S. citizens are being specifically targeted in this seasonal increase in crime. We encourage everyone to commit themselves to taking that extra minute to think about doing the right thing as it pertains to security.

* Courtesy Regional Security Officer

ATTENTION VOTERS (read carefully, as a lot of States are mentioned)

The following States will hold Primary Elections during the months of May and June, 2010 on the dates indicated.

- May 4: Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio
- May 11: Nebraska, West Virginia
- May 18: Arkansas, Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania (Variety of offices, see below)
- May 22: Hawaii (Special general election, see below)
- May 25: Idaho
- June 1: Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico
- June 8: California, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia
- June 22: Utah

On May 18, Pennsylvania voters will cast ballots for candidates for a variety of offices, including governor, lieutenant governor, state senator and representative, U.S. senator and U.S. representative. If you are eligible to vote in this election, and requested and received a ballot for the November 4, 2008, presidential election, you should have received an absentee ballot by now, unless your mailing address has changed. For more information, please visit the following site: <http://www.votespa.com>

On May 22, Hawaii will hold a special general election to fill the congressional vacancy left by the resignation of Congressman Neil Abercrombie. The 1st Congressional District includes Honolulu and parts of Oahu. For more information, please visit the following site:

<http://www.fvap.gov/global/news/nr8-2010.html>

Register and Request Your Ballot Now!

All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States and have not yet submitted a registration and ballot request (FPCA) for the 2010 calendar year, should do so as soon as possible. The FPCA ballot application and instructions for the above States are available at www.fvap.gov/FPCA. Click on your State on the map and follow the instructions to register and request an absentee ballot. Some States allow submitting the FPCA by fax or email in addition to regular mail.

Send your FPCA now to your election office to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote, and return the ballot! For more information, please visit the following website and click on the news release for your state:

<http://www.fvap.gov/global/news/index.html>

“Good husbands are known by qualities of their wives.” - Mongolian proverb



A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The Embassy encourages all business groups, churches, private companies, and other organizations with a nucleus of American citizens to make sure that the Embassy has a point of contact for your group.

To receive Embassy announcements and advisories via e-mail, please join the Embassy Newslist. Your membership in the Embassy Newslist will assure you of receiving Embassy issued announcements and advisories in a timely manner. Your private information will be kept strictly confidential. Send an email to the Embassy at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov giving the name of your organization, a point of contact (POC), email address, phone number, and any other contact information. It is not necessary that your POC be an American citizen. The Embassy will use this information to contact your group in an emergency. Please type "Group Contact Info" on the subject line of your email.

The Internet-Based Registration System (IBRS): a secure online travel registration for American citizen.

The State Department recently launched a secure online travel registration website to allow American citizens to record foreign trip and residence information that the Department of State can use to communicate with you and assist you in case of an emergency.

U.S. citizens who travel or reside abroad can access this site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/>.

Once you have registered with the Embassy, you will receive e-mail announcements, Travel Warnings and other emergency notifications.

Travel Warnings and Alerts

- [Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#) 04/21/2010
- [Kyrgyz Republic](#) 04/20/2010
- [Mexico](#) 04/12/2010
- [Philippines](#) 04/02/2010
- [Algeria](#) 04/02/2010
- [Lebanon](#) 03/29/2010
- [Iran](#) 03/23/2010

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

WONDERING IF THE FLIGHT IS ON TIME?

This website has virtually every flight in the world and is updated regularly. It has been used for MIAT and Korean Air flights and it has been accurate every time. <http://www.flightstats.com/>

Security Delays for U.S. Flights

Flights arriving to and departing from the United States may experience delays due to increased security measures. Passengers should plan to arrive early at airports overseas and in the U.S. For more information on these increased security measures, please see the TSA's website: http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/dec25_guidance.shtm

Upcoming Holidays

- May 31—Memorial Day
- June 1—Mother and Child Day

Embassy Contact Information

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