

**THE MORNING CALM**

A NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES UNIT

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**CONTACT US!**

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Seoul 110-710, Korea

- or -

American Citizen Services  
U.S. Embassy, Seoul  
Unit #15550  
APO AP 96205-5550

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport)  
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Fax: 02-397-4080  
DSN: 721-4114

English: [www.asktheconsul.org/](http://www.asktheconsul.org/)  
Korean: [www.usavisas.org/](http://www.usavisas.org/)  
E-mail: [seoulinfo@state.gov](mailto:seoulinfo@state.gov)

**GREETINGS FROM THE AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES CHIEF**

Dear Fellow Americans in Korea:

On March 2, we began using an appointment system for some of our customers, and those with appointments were being seen faster than our traditional walk-in applicants. I encourage any of you who need to renew your passport, obtain a notarial or get a Consular Report of Report of Birth Abroad for a newborn child, to make an appointment through our online system using the following link to our website: [http://seoul.usembassy.gov/acs\\_appt.html](http://seoul.usembassy.gov/acs_appt.html). We know that your time is valuable, and making an appointment will help you minimize the amount of time you need to spend in our waiting room.

Those of you with appointments for passport services will need to use our on-line "Passport Wizard" in order to speed things up on our end (see <https://pptform.state.gov/>). Having an appointment and using Passport Wizard will significantly minimize the amount of time you will need to be at the Embassy for services.

Many other large American citizen services units around the world have gone fully to appointment systems and for good reason. We have found that with our current walk-in first-come first-served system that our applicants sometimes come in bunches at certain times during the work day. This leads to long waits for some customers. At other times during the work day we tend to have very few customers. With an appointment system we can space out our applicants so they can be seen faster.

Everyone who makes an appointment for our services will receive an e-mail reminder at least one day prior to it. This e-mail will explain what you need to do and bring with you in preparation for your appointment. Reading and following these instructions will also help to minimize the amount of time you have to wait at the Embassy.

It goes without saying that we will turn no U.S. citizen away who comes without an appointment, especially in an emergency situation. However, with the appointment system we anticipate being able to serve you better and smarter.

Enjoy the warmer weather – spring is almost here!

Robert (Buck) Waldrop

**KOREAN VISAS MADE EASIER**

The JoongAng Daily is reporting that there are new changes in the process to apply for Korean work visas. Companies and individuals may now apply online at HuNet Korea, the government-run visa nomination and online visa application web site: [www.visa.go.kr](http://www.visa.go.kr).

In addition, JoonAng reports that the requirement for re-entry permits will be eased for both foreigners married to Korean nationals and international students studying in Korea who leave for short home visits and overseas trips. For more information, please visit the JoongAng Daily's English language website at: <http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2916030>

## TAX INFORMATION

Income tax season is fast approaching. We recommend that you obtain your tax forms 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.

Main IRS website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

U.S. Embassy Seoul tax information page: [http://seoul.usembassy.gov/tax\\_information.html](http://seoul.usembassy.gov/tax_information.html)

Tax guidance for U.S. citizens abroad: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>

Tax guidance for persons 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: E-Services Help Desk 1-512-416-7750

Individuals	1-800-829-1040	Businesses	1-800-829-4933
Customer Service Phone Number	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

Please note that calling the above 1-800 U.S. numbers from an overseas location will usually not be toll-free.

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.

## NEW INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING OVERSEAS

With elections taking place later this year, voters overseas should make sure that they are aware of recent regulation changes. On October 28, 2009, Congress enacted the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This legislation amends existing law regarding overseas voting in federal elections, and should make voting easier for overseas Americans.

The new regulations will be in effect for the November 2010 elections. For more information about new regulations and procedures for overseas voting, along with details for both Federal and State elections, please visit <http://www.fvap.gov/>. Remember, it's never too early to stay informed and to prepare for elections.

A separate warden message with more details about these overseas voting changes was sent out recently.

## TRAVEL WARNINGS

The U.S. Department of State has recently issued travel warnings or travel alerts for the following countries and regions. If you are traveling to any of these regions in the near future, please consult [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for more information.

### Travel Alerts:

[Yemen](#) 02/25/2010  
[Saudi Arabia](#) 02/18/2010  
[Chile](#) 02/28/2010  
[Haiti](#) 02/09/2010  
[Mexico](#) 02/23/2010  
[Pakistan](#) 01/07/2010  
[India - Security Issues](#) 01/29/2010  
[Sudan](#) 12/31/2009  
[Philippines](#) 01/20/2010  
[Somalia](#) 12/31/2009  
[Malaysia](#) 01/15/2010  
[Mauritania](#) 12/02/2009  
[Niger](#) 11/19/2009  
[Chad](#) 11/23/2009

### Travel Warnings:

[Mali](#) 11/19/2009  
[Sri Lanka](#) 11/19/2009  
[Nepal](#) 11/19/2009  
[Central African Republic](#) 02/26/2010  
[Algeria](#) 11/16/2009  
[Iraq](#) 02/26/2010  
[Colombia](#) 11/10/2009

### Worldwide Caution July 29, 2009

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1161.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1161.html)

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](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)