

U.S. Embassy in Singapore

Consular Section

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American Citizen Services (ACS) Newsletter

June-July 2010

The newsletter is our way of sharing topics of general interest as well as any changes in Embassy hours or procedures. We will continue to send time-sensitive announcements separately. If you need to update your registration, please click [here](#). Please share your feedback with us at SingaporeACS@state.gov. *Thank you!*

If you no longer live in or travel to Singapore, please send us an email with your full name and your request for removal to SingaporeACS@state.gov.

The U.S. Embassy is now on **Facebook**. Please click [here](#) and check us out.

Topics covered in this Issue:

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please find a link to a Travel Alert for a country of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Alerts for all regions, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov>.

[India](#) April 16, 2010

[Malaysia](#) April 16, 2010

Current Warden Messages of regional interest:

Warden Messages are notices sent directly to American citizens to provide important information about local conditions.

[Water festival bombing in BURMA](#) April 15, 2010

[Terrorists are planning imminent attacks in NEW DEHLI.](#) May 1, 2010

[Possible large scale demonstrations May 1 and 6 in major INDONESIAN cities.](#) April 30, 2010

[Nationwide strikes from the CPN-Maoist Party in NEPAL.](#) May 4, 2010

[Tropical storm Laila caused heavy rains and flooding making major roads temporarily impassable in SRI LANKA.](#) May 21, 2010

[Travel warning canceled but a state of emergency remains for THAILAND.](#) June 3, 2010

Updated Country Specific Information for countries in our region:

The Department of State maintains at all times Country Specific Information for every country in the world. This information is updated approximately twice a year or as necessary due to changing conditions. Recently, updates have been posted for the following countries in the region.

[Australia](#) May 27, 2010

[Burma \(Myanmar\)](#) May 19, 2010

[Laos](#) April 21, 2010

[Philippines](#) May 11, 2010

[Taiwan](#) May 20, 2010

Introducing our New Ambassador: David Adelman

Dear American Community in Singapore:

It is a great honor to have been asked by the President to represent our country as the United States Ambassador in Singapore. Our family arrived in April and we are now almost fully settled. Thank you for making the transition so easy. You have been very welcoming and we look forward to being active members of the Singapore's large and thriving American community.

My wife Caroline and I have three children who are enrolled at the Singapore American School. We are a tight-knit family. We even brought our two dogs, Peanut and Pepper, with us on this adventure! Since first meeting each other while we were students at the University of Georgia, Caroline and I have spent much of our lives in the South living in Atlanta with summers at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Before coming here, I had spent my career as a businessman and lawyer. I was a partner in a large law firm representing American businesses out of offices in Washington, Houston, New York and Atlanta. In addition to my commercial law practice, on a pro bono basis, I represented military veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Caroline was active at our children's school and with various charitable organizations. We look forward to continuing our volunteer work and community activism here in Asia.

The relationship between the United States and Singapore is a good one. We share common strategic interests in Southeast Asia and have strong military and commercial ties. We have a thriving and active community of more than 20,000 American living here. I hope you each will consider yourselves ambassadors of our country. There are many challenges facing us in Southeast Asia. My commitment to you as the President's representative is to work hard every day and to always make you proud. Please do not hesitate to call on me any time.

We look forward to meeting each of you in the coming weeks and months.

On behalf of the Adelman family, please accept my best personal regards,

David Adelman

U.S. Ambassador

ACS will be at Independence Day Celebration July 3rd

American Citizen Services will have a booth at the July 4th Independence Day Celebration actually held on the 3rd of July in Sembawang. Please stop by for voter registration and other information. Don't miss the fireworks at this free admission, open to the public event being

held from 4-10pm. Also located at our booth will be our friends of the American Employee Association who will be selling U.S. Embassy logo items. For much more on this family event which is organized by the American Association of Singapore please click [here](#).

Voting in Up and Coming Primaries

The following States will hold Primary Elections **during June and July, 2010**, on the dates indicated:

June 1: Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico

June 8: California, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia. In Georgia, there will be a Special Runoff Election to fill the Congressional vacancy left by the resignation of Congressman Nathan Deal of the 9th District.

June 22, 2010: Utah

July 20, 2010: Georgia

July 27, 2010: Oklahoma

Register and Request Your Absentee Ballot Now

Anyone who has 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 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.

For more information, [click here](#) to learn more about what voting is taking place in your state.

Wanting to take your Domestic Helper back to the U.S.?

Before expending both money and time on a domestic employee visa application, please be forewarned that the vast majority of these applicants will **most likely be unable to qualify** for a visa to enter the United States.

If approved for a visa, employers **must pay** their domestic employee **minimum or prevailing wage, whichever is greater**, for the entire time that the domestic employee is in the United States. It is not sufficient to continue paying the domestic employee's salary under their contract for services in Singapore. Find more on this topic at our website:

http://singapore.usembassy.gov/domestic_employee_visas.html

Non-immigrant Visa Fees to the United States Going Up

Please note that the MRV fees for non-immigrant visas to the United States are **increasing** as of June 4th. If you have family members or friends who are applying for non-immigrant visas in the near future please encourage them to visit our website for the new schedule of fees and more details about the application process at http://singapore.usembassy.gov/visa_fees.html.

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Topic of Interest: Selective Service in the U.S. relates to any male between the ages of 18-26.

If you are a man ages 18-26 and living in the U.S., then **you must register** with the Selective Service. It is the law. It is quick and easy and you can register online by clicking [here.](#)

The U.S. does not want eligible persons to be prosecuted or denied benefits. If a draft is ever needed, it must be as fair as possible, and that fairness depends on having as many eligible men as possible registered. In the event of a draft, for every man who fails to register, another man would be required to take his place in service to his country.

You are asked to register within one month of your 18th birthday and before your 26th birthday. After that, it's too late and penalties may apply! To view frequently asked questions about Selective Service click [here.](#)

Benefits of registering:

- It is a requirement when applying for any student financial aid.
- It increases your job market options in the Executive Branch of the Federal government and the U.S. Postal Service.
- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) makes registration with the Selective Service a condition for U.S. citizenship if the man first arrived in the U.S. before his 26th birthday.
- Avoid fines and penalties