

Notice is hereby given that any interested person may submit written comments on the transaction to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

**Harry E. Haskins,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Investment.*

[FR Doc. 03-21799 Filed 8-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 4348]

#### **Establishment of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Diplomacy**

*Establishment of advisory committee:* This notice is published in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), and advises of the establishment of the Department of States Advisory Committee on Cultural Diplomacy. The Secretary of State has determined that the establishment of the committee is in the public interest and fulfills the requirements set forth in Pub. L. 107-228, section 224.

*Purpose of the advisory committee:* The Advisory Committee on Cultural Diplomacy will advise the Secretary on programs and policies to advance the use of cultural diplomacy in United States foreign policy.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Cultural Programs Division is the organization within the Department of State that is supporting this advisory committee. For additional information, contact Angier Peavey, Advisory Committee Management Secretariat 301 Fourth Street SW., Washington DC 20547, telephone (202) 619-4809.

Dated: July 30, 2003.

**Patricia S. Harrison,**

*Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 03-21907 Filed 8-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 4458]

#### **Bureau of Consular Affairs; Registration for the Diversity Immigrant (DV-2005) Visa Program**

**ACTION:** Notice of registration for the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program.

This public notice provides information on how to apply for the DV 2005 Program. This notice is issued pursuant to 22 CFR 42.33(b)(3) which implements sections 201(a)(3), 201(e), 203(c) and 204(a)(1)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1153, and 1154(a)(1)(G)).

#### **Instructions for the 2005 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2005)**

The congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is administered on an annual basis by the Department of State and conducted under the terms of Section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Section 131 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-649) amended INA 203 to provide for a new class of immigrants known as "diversity immigrants" (DV immigrants). The Act makes available 50,000 permanent resident visas annually to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

The annual DV program makes permanent residence visas available to persons meeting the simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. Applicants for Diversity Visas are chosen by a computer-generated random lottery drawing. The visas, however, are distributed among six geographic regions with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to citizens of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the past five years. Within each region, no one country may receive more than seven percent of the available Diversity Visas in any one year.

For DV-2005, natives of the following countries are *not* eligible to apply because they sent a total of more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the previous five years (the term "country" in this notice includes countries, economies and other jurisdictions explicitly listed beginning on page 15). Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. *Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan are eligible*

#### **Application Submission Dates**

Entries for the DV-2005 Diversity Visa Lottery must be submitted electronically between Saturday, November 1, 2003 and Tuesday,

December 30, 2003. Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) during the 60-day registration period beginning November 1. Paper entries will not be accepted.

#### **Requirements For Entry**

- Applicant must be a native of one of the countries listed beginning on page 10. See "List of Countries by Region Whose Natives Qualify."

*Native of a country whose natives qualify:* In most cases this means the country in which the applicant was born. However, if a person was born in a country whose natives are ineligible but his or her spouse was born in a country whose natives are eligible, such person can claim the spouse's country of birth providing both the applicant and spouse are issued visas and enter the U.S. simultaneously. If a person was born in a country whose natives are ineligible, but neither of his or her parents was born there or resided there at the time of the birth, such person may be able to claim nativity in the country of birth of one of the parents.

- Applicants must meet either the education or training requirement of the DV program.

*Education or Training:* An applicant must have EITHER a high school education or its equivalent, defined as successful completion of a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education; OR two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform. The U.S. Department of Labor's O\*Net OnLine database will be used to determine qualifying work experience. Applicants will also find a link to a Labor Department list of qualifying occupations at the Consular Affairs Web site: <http://www.travel.state.gov>.

If the applicant cannot meet these requirements, he or she should NOT submit an entry to the DV program.

#### **Procedures for Submitting an Entry to DV-2005**

- All entries by an applicant will be disqualified if more than ONE entry for the applicant is received, regardless of who submitted the entry. Applicants may prepare and submit their own entries, or have someone submit the entry for them.

- For the DV-2005 Program, the Department of State for the first time will only accept completed Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Forms submitted electronically at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> during a lengthened 60 day registration period beginning November 1, 2003.

- Also for the first time, the Department of State will send DV lottery entrants an electronic confirmation notice upon receipt of a completed EDV Entry Form.

- The entry will be disqualified if all required photos are not attached. Recent photographs of the applicant and his or her spouse and each child under 21 years of age, including all natural children as well as all legally-adopted and stepchildren, excepting a child who is already a U.S. citizen or a Legal Permanent Resident, even if a child no longer resides with the applicant or is not intended to immigrate under the DV program, must be submitted electronically with the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form. Group or family photos will not be accepted; there must be a separate photo for each family member.

Each applicant, his/her spouse, and each child will therefore need a computer file containing his/her digital photo (image) which will be submitted on-line with the EDV Entry Form. The image file can be produced either by taking a new digital photograph or by scanning a photographic print with a digital scanner.

*If the submitted digital images do not conform to the following specifications, the system will automatically reject the EDV Entry Form and notify the sender.*

- The image must be in the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) format.
- The image must be either in color or grayscale; monochrome images (2-bit color depth) will not be accepted.
- If a new digital photograph is taken, it must have a resolution of 320 pixels wide by 240 pixels high, and a color depth of either 24-bit color, 8-bit color, or 8-bit grayscale.
- If a photographic print is scanned, the print must be 2 inches by 2 inches (50mm x 50mm) square. It must be scanned at a resolution of 150 dots per inch (dpi) and with a color depth of either 24-bit color, 8-bit color, or 8-bit grayscale.
- The maximum image size accepted will be sixty-two thousand five hundred (62,500) bytes.

*If the submitted digital images do not conform to the following specifications, the entry will be disqualified:*

- Applicant, spouse, or child must be directly facing the camera; the head of the person being photographed should not be tilted up, down or to the side, and should cover about 50% of the area of the photo.
- The photo should be taken with the person being photographed in front of a neutral, light-colored background. Photos taken with very dark or

patterned, busy backgrounds will not be accepted.

- Photos in which the face of the person being photographed is not in focus will not be accepted.
- Photos in which the person being photographed is wearing sunglasses or other paraphernalia which detracts from the face will not be accepted.
- Photos of applicants wearing head coverings or hats are only acceptable due to religious beliefs, and even then, may not obscure any portion of the face of the applicant. Photos of applicants with tribal or other headgear not specifically religious in nature are not acceptable. Photos of military, airline or other personnel wearing hats will not be accepted.

#### Information Required for the Electronic Entry

There is only one way to enter the DV-2005 lottery. Applicants must submit an Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form (EDV Entry Form), which is accessible only at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). Failure to complete the form in its entirety will disqualify the applicant's entry. Applicants will be asked to submit the following information on the EDV Entry Form.

1. FULL NAME, Last/Family Name, First Name, Middle name.
2. DATE OF BIRTH, Day, Month, Year.
3. GENDER, Male or Female.
4. CITY/TOWN OF BIRTH.
5. COUNTRY OF BIRTH, The name of the country should be that which is currently in use for the place where the applicant was born.
6. APPLICANT PHOTOGRAPH, (See pages 3 and 4 for information on photo specifications).
7. MAILING ADDRESS, Address, City/Town, District/Country/Province/State, Postal. Code/Zip Code, Country.
8. PHONE NUMBER (optional).
9. E-MAIL ADDRESS (optional).
10. COUNTRY OF ELIGIBILITY IF THE APPLICANT'S NATIVE COUNTRY IS DIFFERENT FROM COUNTRY OF BIRTH, If the applicant is claiming nativity in a country other than his or her place of birth, that information must be submitted on the entry. If an applicant is claiming nativity through spouse or parent, please indicate that on the entry.

11. MARRIAGE STATUS, Yes or No.

12. NUMBER OF CHILDREN THAT ARE UNMARRIED AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE.

13. SPOUSE INFORMATION, Name, Date of Birth, Gender, City/Town of Birth, Country of Birth, Photograph.

14. CHILDREN INFORMATION, Name, Date of Birth, Gender, City/Town of Birth, Country of Birth, Photograph.

**Note:** Entries must include the name, date and place of birth of the applicant's spouse and all natural children, as well as all legally-adopted and stepchildren who are unmarried and under the age of 21 years, excepting those children who are already U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, even if they are no longer legally married to the child's parent, and even if the spouse or child does not currently reside with the applicant and/or will not immigrate with the applicant. Note that married children and children 21 years or older will not qualify for the diversity visa. Failure to list all children will result in the applicant's disqualification for the visa. (See question 11 on the list of Frequently Asked Questions.)

#### Selection of Applicants

Applicants will be selected at random by computer from among all qualified entries. Those selected will be notified by mail between May and July 2004 and will be provided further instructions, including information on fees connected with immigration to the U.S.

Persons not selected will *not* receive any notification. U.S. embassies and consulates will not be able to provide a list of successful applicants. Spouses and unmarried children under age 21 of successful applicants may also apply for visas to accompany or follow to join the principal applicant. DV-2005 visas will be issued between October 1, 2004 and September 30, 2005.

In order to actually receive a visa, applicants selected in the random drawing must meet *all* eligibility requirements under U.S. law. Processing of entries and issuance of diversity visas to successful applicants and their eligible family members *must* occur by midnight on September 30, 2005. Under no circumstances can diversity visas be issued or adjustments approved after this date, nor can family members obtain diversity visas to follow to join the applicant in the U.S. after this date.

#### Important Notice

No fee is charged to enter the annual DV program. The U.S. Government employs no outside consultants or private services to operate the DV program. Any intermediaries or others who offer assistance to prepare DV casework for applicants do so without the authority or consent of the U.S. Government. Use of any outside intermediary or assistance to prepare a DV entry is entirely at the applicant's discretion.

A qualified entry submitted electronically directly by an applicant has an equal chance of being selected by the computer at the Kentucky Consular

Center, as does an entry submitted electronically through a paid intermediary who completes the entry for the applicant. Every entry received during the lottery registration period will have an equal random chance of being selected within its region. However, receipt of more than one entry per person will disqualify the person from registration, regardless of the source of that entry.

### Frequently Asked Questions About DV Registration

1. What does the term "native" mean? Are there any situations in which persons who were not born in a qualifying country may apply?

"Native" ordinarily means someone born in a particular country, regardless of the individual's current country of residence or nationality. But for immigration purposes "native" can also mean someone who is entitled to be "charged" to a country other than the one in which he or she was born under the provisions of Section 202(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

For example, if a principal applicant was born in a country that is not eligible for this year's DV program, he or she may claim "chargeability" to the country where his or her derivative spouse was born, but he or she will not be issued a DV-1 unless the spouse is also eligible for and issued a DV-2, and both must enter the U.S. together on the DVs. In a similar manner, a minor dependent child can be "charged" to a parent's country of birth.

Finally, any applicant born in a country ineligible for this year's DV program can be "charged" to the country of birth of either parent as long as neither parent was a resident of the ineligible country at the time of the applicant's birth. In general, people are not considered residents of a country in which they were not born or legally naturalized if they are only visiting the country temporarily or stationed in the country for business or professional reasons on behalf of a company or government. An applicant who claims alternate chargeability *must* include information to that effect on the application for registration.

2. Are there any changes or new requirements in the application procedures for this diversity visa registration?

All DV-2005 lottery entries must be submitted electronically at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) between Saturday, November 1, 2003 and Tuesday, December 30, 2003. No paper entries will be accepted.

The Department of State implemented an electronic registration system in

order to make the Diversity Visa process more efficient and secure. The Department will utilize special technology and other means to identify applicants who commit fraud for the purposes of illegal immigration or who submit multiple applications.

The signature requirement on the DV entry has been eliminated and the DV-2005 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program registration period will run from November 1 through December 30. The other major change from last year is that natives of Russia will not be eligible to apply for a diversity visa. (Please see Question 4 below for a description of why natives of certain countries do not qualify for the DV Program.)

3. Are signatures and photographs required for each family member, or only for the principal applicant?

Signatures are not required on the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form. Recent and individual photos of the applicant, his or her spouse and all children under 21 years of age are required. Family or group photos are not accepted. Check the information on the photo requirements on page 2 of this bulletin.

4. Why do natives of certain countries not qualify for the diversity program?

Diversity visas are intended to provide an immigration opportunity for persons from countries other than the countries that send large numbers of immigrants to the U.S. The law states that no diversity visas shall be provided for natives of "high admission" countries. The law defines this to mean countries from which a total of 50,000 persons in the Family-Sponsored and Employment-Based visa categories immigrated to the United States during the previous five years. Each year, the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) adds the family and employment immigrant admission figures for the previous five years in order to identify the countries whose natives must be excluded from the annual diversity lottery. Because there is a separate determination made before each annual DV entry period, the list of countries whose natives do not qualify may change from one year to the next.

5. What is the numerical limit for DV-2005?

By law, the U.S. diversity immigration program makes available a maximum of 55,000 permanent residence visas each year to eligible persons. However, the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) passed by Congress in November 1997 stipulates that beginning as early as DV-99, and for as long as necessary, 5,000 of the 55,000 annually-allocated diversity visas will be made available

for use under the NACARA program. The actual reduction of the limit to 50,000 began with DV-2000 and remains in effect for the DV-2005 program.

6. What are the Regional Diversity Visa (DV) limits for DV-2005?

The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) determines the DV regional limits for each year according to a formula specified in Section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Once the BCIS has completed the calculations, the regional visa limits will be announced.

7. When will entries for the DV-2005 program be accepted?

The DV-2005 entry period will begin on Saturday, November 1, 2003 and will last for 60 days through Tuesday, December 30, 2003. Each year millions apply for the program during the registration period. The massive volume of entries creates an enormous amount of work in selecting and processing successful applicants. Holding the entry period during November and December will ensure successful applicants are notified in a timely manner, and gives both them and our embassies and consulates time to prepare and complete entries for visa issuance.

8. May persons who are in the U.S. apply for the program?

Yes, an applicant may be in the U.S. or in another country, and the entry may be submitted from the U.S. or from abroad.

9. Is each applicant limited to only one entry during the annual DV registration period?

Yes, the law allows only one entry by or for each person during each registration period; *applicants for whom more than one entry is submitted will be disqualified*. The Department of State will employ sophisticated technology and other means to identify individuals that submit multiple entries during the registration period. Applicants submitting more than one entry will be disqualified and an electronic record will be permanently maintained by the Department of State. Applicants may apply for the program each year during the regular registration period.

10. May a husband and a wife each submit a separate entry?

Yes, a husband and a wife may each submit one entry, if each meets the eligibility requirements. If either were selected, the other would be entitled to derivative status.

11. What family members must I include on my DV entry?

On your entry you must list your spouse, that is, husband or wife, and all unmarried children under 21 years of age, with the exception of a child who

is already a U.S. citizen or a Legal Permanent Resident. You must list your spouse even if you are currently separated from him or her. However, if you are legally divorced, you do not need to list your former spouse. For customary marriages, the important date is the date of the original marriage ceremony, *not* the date on which the marriage is registered. You must list ALL your children who are unmarried and under the age of 21 years, whether they are your natural children, your spouse's children by a previous marriage, or children you have formally adopted in accordance with the laws of your country, unless a child is already a U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent Resident. List all children under 21 years of age even if they no longer reside with you or you do not intend for them to immigrate under the DV program.

The fact that you have listed family members on your entry does not mean that they later must travel with you. They may choose to remain behind. However, if you include an eligible dependent on your visa application forms that you failed to include on your original entry, your case will be disqualified. (This only applies to persons who were dependents at the time the original application was submitted, not those acquired at a later date.) Your spouse may still submit a separate entry, even though he or she is listed on your entry, as long as both entries include details on all dependents in your family. See question 10 above.

12. Must each applicant submit his or her own entry, or may someone act on behalf of an applicant?

Applicants may prepare and submit their own entries, or have someone submit the entry for them. Regardless of whether an entry is submitted by the applicant directly, or assistance is provided by an attorney, friend, relative, etc., only one entry may be submitted in the name of each person. If the entry is selected, the notification letter will be sent *only* to the mailing address provided on the entry.

13. What are the requirements for education or work experience?

The law and regulations require that every applicant must have at least a high school education or its equivalent or, within the past five years, have two years of work experience in an occupation requiring at least two years training or experience. A "high school education or equivalent" is defined as successful completion of a twelve-year course of elementary and secondary education in the United States or successful completion in another country of a formal course of elementary

and secondary education comparable to a high school education in the United States. Documentary proof of education or work experience should not be submitted with the lottery entry, but must be presented to the consular officer at the time of the visa interview. To determine eligibility based on work experience, definitions from the Department of Labor's O\*Net OnLine database will be used.

14. How will successful entrants be selected?

At the Kentucky Consular Center, all entries received *from each region will be individually numbered*. After the end of the registration period, a computer will randomly select entries from among all the entries received for each geographic region. Within each region, the first entry randomly selected will be the first case registered, the second entry selected the second registration, etc. All entries received during the registration period will have an equal chance of being selected within each region. When an entry has been selected, the applicant will be sent a notification letter by the Kentucky Consular Center, which will provide visa application instructions. The Kentucky Consular Center will continue to process the case until those who are selected are instructed to appear for visa interviews at a U.S. consular office, or until those able to do so apply at a BCIS office in the United States for change of status.

15. May winning applicants adjust their status with BCIS?

Yes, provided they are otherwise eligible to adjust status under the terms of Section 245 of the INA, selected applicants who are physically present in the United States may apply to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) for adjustment of status to permanent resident. Applicants must ensure that BCIS can complete action on their cases, including processing of any overseas derivatives, before September 30, 2005, since on that date registrations for the DV-2005 program expire. No visa numbers for the DV-2005 program will be available after midnight on September 30, 2005 under any circumstances.

16. Will applicants who are not selected be informed?

No, applicants who are not selected will receive no response to their entry. Only those who are selected will be informed. All notification letters are sent within about nine months of the end of the application period to the address indicated on the entry. Anyone who does not receive a letter will know that his or her application has not been selected.

17. How many applicants will be selected?

There are 50,000 DV visas available for DV-2005, but more than that number of individuals will be selected. Because it is likely that some of the first 50,000 persons who are selected will not qualify for visas or pursue their cases to visa issuance, more than 50,000 entries will be selected by the Kentucky Consular Center to ensure that all of the available DV visas are issued. However, this also means that there will not be a sufficient number of visas for all those who are initially selected. All applicants who are selected will be informed promptly of their place on the list. Interviews with those selected will begin in early October 2004. The Kentucky Consular Center will send appointment letters to selected applicants four to six weeks before the scheduled interviews with U.S. consular officers at overseas posts. Each month visas will be issued, visa number availability permitting, to those applicants who are ready for issuance during that month. Once all of the 50,000 DV visas have been issued, the program for the year will end. In principle, visa numbers could be finished before September 2005. Selected applicants who wish to receive visas must be prepared to act promptly on their cases. Random selection by the Kentucky Consular Center computer does not automatically guarantee that you will receive a visa.

18. Is there a minimum age for applicants to apply for the DV Program?

There is no minimum age to apply for the program, but the requirement of a high school education or work experience for each principal applicant at the time of application will effectively disqualify most persons who are under age 18.

19. Are there any fees for the DV Program?

There is no fee for submitting an entry. A special DV case processing fee will be payable later by persons whose entries are actually selected and processed at a U.S. consular section for this year's program. DV applicants, like other immigrant visa applicants, must also pay the regular visa fees at the time of visa issuance. Details of required fees will be included with the instructions sent by the Kentucky Consular Center to applicants who are selected.

20. Are DV applicants specially entitled to apply for a waiver of any of the grounds of visa ineligibility?

No. Applicants are subject to all grounds of ineligibility for immigrant visas specified in the Immigration and Nationality Act. There are no special provisions for the waiver of any ground

of visa ineligibility other than those ordinarily provided in the Act.

21. May persons who are already registered for an immigrant visa in another category apply for the DV Program?

Yes, such persons may apply for the DV program.

22. How long do applicants who are selected remain entitled to apply for visas in the DV Category?

Persons selected in the DV-2005 lottery are entitled to apply for visa issuance only during fiscal year 2005, *i.e.*, from October 2004 through September 2005. Applicants must obtain the DV visa or adjust status by the end of the Fiscal Year (September 30, 2005). There is no carry-over of DV benefits into the next year for persons who are selected but who do not obtain visas during FY-2005. Also, spouses and children who derive status from a DV-2005 registration can only obtain visas in the DV category between October 2004 and September 2005. Applicants who apply overseas will receive an appointment letter from the Kentucky Consular Center four to six weeks before the scheduled appointment.

#### List Of Countries by Region Whose Natives Qualify

The lists below show the countries whose natives are QUALIFIED within each geographic region for this diversity program. The determination of countries within each region is based on information provided by the Geographer of the Department of State. The countries whose natives do not qualify for the DV-2005 program were identified by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) according to the formula in Section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Dependent areas overseas are included within the region of the governing country. The countries whose natives do NOT qualify for this diversity program (because they are the principal source countries of Family-Sponsored and Employment-Based immigration, or "high admission" countries) are noted in parentheses after the respective regional lists.

##### Africa

Algeria  
Angola  
Benin  
Botswana  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad

Comoros  
Congo  
Congo, Democratic Republic of the Cote  
D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)  
Djibouti  
Egypt  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Gambia, The  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libya  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Sudan  
Swaziland  
Tanzania  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Uganda  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

*Asia*

Afghanistan  
Bahrain  
Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
Brunei  
Burma  
Cambodia  
East Timor  
Hong Kong Special Administrative  
Region  
Indonesia  
Iran  
Iraq  
Israel  
Japan  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Laos  
Lebanon  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Mongolia  
Nepal  
North Korea

Oman  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
Singapore  
Sri Lanka  
Syria  
Taiwan  
Thailand  
United Arab Emirates  
Yemen

Natives of the following Asian countries do not qualify for this year's diversity program: China [mainland-born], India, Pakistan, South Korea, Philippines, and Vietnam. The Hong Kong S.A.R and Taiwan do qualify and are listed above. Macau S.A.R. also qualifies and is listed below.

##### Europe

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark (including components and dependent areas overseas)  
Estonia  
Finland  
France (including components and dependent areas overseas)  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Macau Special Administrative Region  
Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Netherlands (including components and dependent areas overseas)  
Northern Ireland  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal (including components and dependent areas overseas)  
Romania  
San Marino  
Serbia and Montenegro  
Slovakia  
Slovenia

Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Tajikistan  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan  
Vatican City

Natives of the following European countries do not qualify for this year's diversity program: Great Britain and Russia. Great Britain (United Kingdom) includes the following dependent areas: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands. **Note** that for purposes of the diversity program only, Northern Ireland is treated separately; Northern Ireland does qualify and is listed among the qualifying areas.

#### *North America*

The Bahamas

In North America, natives of Canada and Mexico do not qualify for this year's diversity program.

#### *Oceania*

Australia (including components and dependent areas overseas)

Fiji  
Kiribati  
Marshall Islands  
Micronesia, Federated States of Nauru  
New Zealand (including components and dependent areas overseas)  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Solomon Islands  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Vanuatu  
Samoa

#### *South America, Central America, and the Caribbean*

Antigua and Barbuda  
Argentina  
Barbados  
Belize  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Chile  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
Dominica  
Ecuador  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Honduras  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Suriname  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Uruguay  
Venezuela

Countries in this region whose natives do not qualify for this year's diversity program: Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico.

Dated: August 21, 2003.

**Maura Harty,**

*Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs,  
Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 03-21908 Filed 8-26-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-06-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4459]

### **Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES); Plan of Action To Be Established Through the U.S.-Singapore Memorandum of Intent on Cooperation in Environmental Matters**

**AGENCY:** Department of State.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State, through its Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, is providing notice that, in accordance with the terms of a U.S.-Singapore Memorandum of Intent on Cooperation in Environmental Matters (MOI), the two governments intend to devise a Plan of Action setting out initial cooperative projects to be pursued. In this notice the Department of State is requesting written comments from the public regarding priority areas for bilateral and regional environmental cooperation with the Republic of Singapore. In preparing comments, the public is encouraged to make reference to the MOI (available at: <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/or/22193.htm>) and to the Final Environment Review of the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (available at: <http://www.ustr.gov>).

**DATES:** To guarantee receipt in proper time for consideration prior to the meeting, comments are requested as soon as possible but not later than thirty days after the publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent by fax to (202) 647-5947 or 202-647-1052, or by e-mail to [richardcj@state.gov](mailto:richardcj@state.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chris Richard, Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International

Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of Environmental Policy, telephone 202-647-4548, e-mail [richardcj@state.gov](mailto:richardcj@state.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 6, 2003 the governments of the United States and the Republic of Singapore signed a Free Trade Agreement in which both governments recognized the importance of strengthening capacity to protect the environment and to promote sustainable development in concert with the strengthening of trade and investment relations. The Parties agreed to pursue, as appropriate, cooperative environmental activities under a Memorandum of Intent on Cooperation in Environmental Matters (MOI). In the MOI, signed on June 13, 2003, the United States and the Republic of Singapore agreed to pursue cooperative environmental activities, including those pertinent to trade and investment and to strengthening environmental performance. This commitment was made to further the objectives of the Trade Act of 2002, including Section 2101(c)(3), which calls upon the President to "seek to establish consultative mechanisms among parties to trade agreements to strengthen the capacity of the United States trading partners to develop and implement standards for the protection of the environment and human health based on sound science." (Further information on the negotiation of free trade agreements or on the Trade Act of 2002 can be found at the Internet site of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, <http://www.ustr.gov>.)

In the MOI the governments expressed their intent to meet at least biennially to review the status of environmental cooperation activities. At the first of these meetings, they intend to devise a Plan of Action setting out initial cooperative bilateral, and, where appropriate, regional projects to be pursued. The MOI sets out a number of general areas under which the two governments may cooperate, including promotion of environmental management, exchange of information on environmental best practices, exploring avenues for technological cooperation, and promoting improved natural resource management and endangered species conservation. In devising the Plan of Action the governments of the United States and Singapore will develop a consensus on more specific objectives based upon further consideration of mutual environmental priorities and resources. Public comment is invited on potential cooperative projects and activities, particularly on ways in which non-