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**Subject:** Virtual U.S. China dialogue meeting on COVID-19: planning discussion on May 7  
**Importance:** High

Greetings,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in a virtual bilateral dialogue meeting between Chinese and American experts studying and fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. I am reaching out to you now so 1) the group is connected by email and 2) to organize the planning teleconference for the American participants on May 7. The purpose of the May 7 discussion is to fill you in on the dialogue background, discuss the topics/questions (list in your invitation letter and attached) and issues we should probably avoid (origin questions, politics), logistics, and address any other questions or concerns you may have.

**We are proposing that this ~1 hour discussion take place over Zoom at 8:00 PM ET on Thursday, May 7.** If this time does not work for someone we could push the time up or back slightly. Please let me know. Also if Thursday evening is impossible I can brief you on the discussion over the phone sometime on Friday.

Re the actually dialogue meeting with the Chinese group, as your invitation letter notes we have proposed that the dialogue meeting take place on the evenings of Monday, May 11th (to address the first set of bullet points) and Tuesday, May 12th (to ask/answer follow-up questions and address the second set of bullet points), at 9:00 PM ET for the Americans. George Gao has not yet let us know if these exact times work but we should hear back from him soon (the Chinese May day holidays end on the 5<sup>th</sup>).

Kind regards,

Ben

Benjamin Rusek  
The U.S. National Academy of Sciences