

SUMMARY: On Friday, December 8, the Wuhan FAO sent the consulate's protocol assistant an invitation for a Consulate official to attend, but not speak at, a tourism conference two days later, on Sunday, December 10. We responded that our Consular Chief Terry Mobley would attend. On Saturday, December 9, around 11 p.m. the night before the event, the Wuhan FAO contact sent a WeChat message, saying "due to significant changes in the content of the tourism conference, foreign mission representatives are no longer invited to the conference tomorrow."

3. ~~(SBU)~~ Wuhan Institute of Virology Cancels Meeting

DATE: December 2017

LOCATION: Wuhan

RESPONSIBLE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR OFFICE: Wuhan Institute of Virology

SUMMARY: The Consulate reached out to this Institute's international liaison unit to arrange an informal meeting over coffee, so we could tee up a visit by the Consul General to the P4 lab for studying infectious diseases, which the Institute operates. A day before the meeting the liaison contacted the Consulate to cancel, saying they now had an "official" meeting they had to attend instead. The Consulate had twice in the past three years made official requests by dipnote to visit the lab, both of which were rejected.

4. ~~(SBU)~~ U.S. Diplomats Blocked from Attending State Department and NDRC-sponsored "EcoPartnerships" Event

DATE: November 2017

LOCATION: Changsha, Hunan Province

RESPONSIBLE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR OFFICE: Unclear; either the Hunan Sanyou Environmental Technology Company and/or the Hunan Province Foreign Affairs Office (FAO)

SUMMARY: In January 2017, a Stony Brook University official notified the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate Wuhan about a "Sino-U.S. Energy and Environment Forum" planned for Changsha, Hunan Province on October 12-14, as part of a U.S. State Department and NDRC sponsored "EcoPartnerships" program. Stony Brook University and Tongji University planned to establish a "Sino-US Energy and Environment Innovation Research Center" at the Sanyou Company as part of the forum. We notified the official that Consul General Fouss planned to attend and give remarks. The organizers postponed the event from October until December 4-5, when the CG was on leave, so on November 9 we notified the Stony Brook official that a diplomat from the Embassy's ESTH unit, a U.S. Embassy Science Fellow and Consulate Wuhan's Econ-ESTH officer would attend, but not the CG. On Nov. 20 the Consulate sent a formal dipnote to the Hunan FAO notifying them of our attendance at this forum. On Nov. 28, one working day before the forum, Ms. Guo Dian from the Sanyou Company informed Consulate Wuhan that only the Embassy Science Fellow could attend the forum, and disinvited the two diplomats. Sanyou followed up with a letter explaining that the company needed one month's advance notice to get permission to invite diplomats to the event, so it was too late. When the Wuhan CG attempted to directly complain to the Hunan FAO Director, who had just a few weeks earlier hosted him for lunch, the Hunan FAO's Yang Qi told Consulate staff the director was "busy these days." Calls to the cell and office numbers on the FAO director's business card went unanswered.