

## **IMMIGRATION UPDATE<sup>©</sup>**

January 11, 2013



## U.S. VISA RECEIPTS IN CHINA WILL EXPIRE MARCH 14, 2013

The U.S. Embassy and Consulates General in China will transition soon to a new visa fee collection system. As a result of this transition, the U.S. Visa Fee Receipts that applicants currently purchase from select CITIC Bank branches will be phased out and will not be valid after March 14, 2013. After March 14, 2013, the U.S. Embassies and Consulate Generals in China will no longer accept these CITIC Bank receipts, and refunds for expired receipts will not be available. Clients should use all current CITIC Visa Fee Receipts before they expire on March 14, 2013.

Visa applicants who plan to apply close to or after March 14, 2013 should wait to pay their visa fees until after the new appointment scheduling and fee payment system has been implemented. These changes indicate that the U.S. Mission to China may be preparing now to implement the <u>same user interface system</u> for visa appointments that has already been rolled out in recent weeks to several other U.S. Embassies and Consulates. It is anticipated that the same system will be rolled out globally over time, and that applicants worldwide will be able to go to a single source online to pay applicable fees, complete the Form DS-160, and schedule a visa appointment.

As always, FosterQuan will continue to monitor changes in visa application procedures and will make future updates available via our Immigration Update© bulletins and on our firm's website at <u>www.fosterquan.com</u>.