

**Source:** TSG SA Chairman  
**Title:** Selecting meeting venues  
**Agenda item:** 5

**Document for:**

Decision	
Discussion	X
Information	

## 1 Introduction

I have received the correspondence copied below from the Chairman of TSG SA WG5. It appears that there is a growing problem for Chinese delegates to obtain Visas to enter the US and this is placing pressure on Chairmen to consider alternative venues. Whilst there may be little that 3GPP can do to solve the problem it is proposed that the PCG discuss this issue.

## 2 Correspondence received

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Truss Michael-mtruss01  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2003 13:12  
**To:** Andersen NielsPeter-NPA001  
**Cc:** Doig Ian-IANDOIG1  
**Subject:** US - China Visa problems.

Niels,

A difficult travel issue has arisen with 3GPP SA5 meetings in the USA. Basically Chinese delegates wishing to travel to the US for 3GPP meetings are being refused visa's.

This problem first became apparent at our last US meeting which was held in Phoenix, February this year. To be honest after the Phoenix meeting we assumed a lot of the Chinese visa problems then were due to delegates not applying on time or being unfamiliar with the correct procedure to follow, especially as some did succeed to get visas.

However the problem has arisen again with our October meeting in New Orleans but now its clear the situation is worse with it becoming apparent late last week that all Chinese delegates have failed to get a US Visa.. This time the attendance of one of the Chinese delegates was so important for the meeting that our vice-chair ( from Nortel Networks) sent a supporting letter to the US Embassy in Beijing, however the visa application was still refused.

SA5 now has a large and very active Chinese contingent ( about 10 delegates) comprising 20% of the group. As a result of the problems with the New Orleans meeting we are having to schedule early morning and late evening conference calls to China to allow some level of participation.

It seems likely we will now also have to try to move our January 2004 meeting from the US to another

more welcoming country ( e.g. Canada), This unfortunately means we would also cancel our planned co-location with 3GPP2.

I expect there is very little 3GPP can do to change this situation, however I am sending you this e-mail to make you aware of the issue, Maybe its something that might be worth mentioning at PCG level ?

Best Regards

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