

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 14:44:50 +0000  
**To:** Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: WIV Cables

Yes. I will call as soon as the class breaks for lunch.

Thanks

(b) (6)

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**From:** "Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 10:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: WIV Cables

Will Noon work for you? If so, please call (b) (6)

Thanks. Gray

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:41 AM  
**To:** Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: WIV Cables

I am in COR training. Only have time at lunch break.

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**From:** "Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 10:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: WIV Cables

Very glad to hear from you. Can you call me in an hour? (b) (6). Thanks. Gray

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:19 AM  
**To:** Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: WIV Cables

Gray,

Hope you are doing well.

Just want to give you ahead up. I am sure you read the article yesterday in Washington Post about the State Department Cable. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Any advice?

Thanks

(b)

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**From:** (b) (6)

**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 9:32 AM

**To:** (b) (6); (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6);  
(b) (6)

**Subject:** WIV Cables

Hi (b) (6),

As I am sure you are quite aware at this point the cables ESTH wrote on the WIV lab and the concerns we had about the findings of the papers on bat coronavirus research have become big news lately. (b) (5)

(b) (6). Do you all have time to discuss this with me. I have a very good memory of most of drafting aspects, but I have no visibility on how they were received outside of State.

It seems we are all back in the States now so perhaps we could do phone call?

(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 4:43 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6)

(b) (6); (b) (6)

(b) (6); (b) (6); Toder, Miles F.

(China/DIR) (b) (6); (b) (6); (U) Sung, Nancy S

(Beijing | NSF) (b) (6); (b) (6); Moolenaar,

Ronald L. (CDC/CGH/DGHP) (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: For your review -- Cable on Wuhan Institute of Virology visit

Thanks (b) (6) for the chance to review the cable. I have no comment added. I am at the EEID meeting. Dr. Zhi Hong Hu told me she was very impressed for the scientific knowledge that the US visitors have.

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 12, 2018, at 3:48 PM, (b) (6) wrote:

Hi (b) (6)

Thanks for the opportunity to review. Added in two suggested comments.

(b) (6)

SBU

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 2:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); Toder, Miles F. (China/DIR); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (U) Sung, Nancy S (Beijing | NSF); Moolenaar, Ronald L (Beijing); (b) (6); (b) (6)

**Subject:** For your review -- Cable on Wuhan Institute of Virology visit

All – here's a cable on this institute from (b) (6) visit a couple weeks ago. (b) (6) thanks for your introduction to the institute, and thanks all as well for the help with the briefing paper – I hope we answered at least some of your questions in the meeting!

Please let me know if you have any corrections or comments, feel free to track changes on the attached if you'd prefer.

(b) (6)

## China Virus Institute Welcomes More U.S. Cooperation on Global Health Security

REFS:

- A. 18 BEIJING 138
- B. 17 BEIJING 2458
- C. 11 MUMBAI 630
- D. 17 TOKYO 716



## E. 13 SEOUL 790

1. (SBU) **Summary and Comment:** China's Wuhan Institute of Virology, a global leader in virus research, is a key partner for the United States in protecting global health security. Its role as operator of the just-launched "P4" lab -- the first such lab in China -- opens up even more opportunities for expert exchange, especially in light of the lab's shortage of trained staff (Ref A).

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

### **End Summary and Comment.**

2. (SBU) Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers and staff gave an overview of the lab and current cooperation with the United States to visiting Environment, Science, Technology and Health Counsellor Rick Switzer and Consulate Wuhan Consul General Jamie Fouss in late March. In the last year, the institute has also hosted visits from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation, and experts from the University of Texas Medical Center in Galveston. The institute reports to the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

### **P4 Lab is Open and Transparent, Officials Emphasize**

3. (SBU) The Wuhan P4 or biosafety level (BSL) 4 lab, referring to labs with the highest level of safety precautions, became fully operational and began working with live viruses early this year. Institute officials said they believed it is the only operational P4 lab in Asia aside from a U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC)-supported facility in Pune, India (Ref C). China plans to stand up a second P4 lab in Harbin. Institute officials said Japan's biosafety labs are "old" and lack cutting-edge equipment, so they consider Japan's labs to be "P3 Plus" (*Note: the Japanese government says it has one P4-level lab in the Tokyo suburbs, though its activities are limited, and Japan is building a new P4 lab in Nagasaki, see Ref D. Taiwan operates at least one P4 lab. South Korea was close to opening a P4 lab as of last year, see Ref E. End Note.*) Wuhan's lab is located about 20 miles from the city center in Zhengdian district, and the institute plans to gradually consolidated its other training, classroom and lab facilities at that location.

4. (SBU) Officials described the lab as a "regional node" in the global biosafety system and said it would play an emergency response role in an epidemic or pandemic. The lab's English brochure highlighted a national security role, saying that it "is an effective measure to improve China's availability in safeguarding national bio-safety if [a] possible biological warfare or terrorist attack happens."

5. (SBU) Institute officials said there would be "limited availability" for international and domestic scientists for research who had gone through the necessary vetting and approval process, and stressed that the lab aimed to be a "worldwide, open platform" for virology. They said they welcomed U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) experts, noting that the Chinese Academy of Sciences was not strong on human disease expertise, having only focused on it in the last 15 years, after the SARS outbreak. An Wuhan-based French consulate official who works on science and technology cooperation with China also emphasized that the lab, which



was initiated in 2004 as a France-China joint project, was intended to be "open and transparent" to the global scientific community. "The intent was to set up a lab to international standards, and open to international research," he said. French experts have provided guidance and biosafety training to the lab, which will continue, the French official said. Institute officials said that France provided the lab's design and much of its technology, but that it is entirely China-funded and has been completely China-run since a "handover" ceremony in 2016.

6. (SBU) In addition to French assistance, experts from the NIH-supported P4 lab at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston have trained Wuhan lab technicians in lab management and maintenance, institute officials said. The Wuhan institute plans to invite scientists from the Galveston lab to do research in Wuhan's lab. One Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher trained for two years at the Galveston lab, and the institute also sent one scientist to U.S. CDC headquarters in Atlanta for six months' work on influenza.

### **NIH-Supported Research Revises SARS Origin Story**

7. (SBU) NIH was a major funder, along with China's National Science Foundation, of SARS research by the Wuhan Institute of Virology's (b) (6)

This lends weight to the theory that SARS originated in bat populations before jumping first to civet cats (likely via bat feces) and then to humans, (b) (6)

team has provided support in statistical modeling to assess the risk of more coronaviruses like SARS crossing over to human populations.

### **Ready to Help with the Global Virome Project**

8. (SBU) Institute officials expressed strong interest in the Global Virome Project (GVP), and said Chinese funding for the project would likely come from Chinese Academy of Sciences funding already earmarked for One Belt, One Road-related initiatives. The [GVP](#) aims to launch this year as an international collaborative effort to identify within ten years virtually all of the planet's viruses that have pandemic or epidemic potential and the ability to jump to humans. "We hope China will be one of the leading countries to initiate the Global Virome Project," one Wuhan Institute of Virology official said. China attended the GVP meeting in January in Thailand and is waiting for more details on the initiative. The officials said that the Chinese government funds projects similar to GVP to investigate the background of viruses and bacteria. The effort falls under the 973 Program, or National Basic Research Program, which aims to help China advance in key scientific fields. This essentially constituted China's own Virome Project, officials said, but they noted the program currently has no official name.

9. (SBU) The Wuhan Institute of Virology's (b) (6) is the (b) (6) (b) (6), which is designed to show "proof of concept" and be a forerunner to the Global Virome Project. (b) (6), with the EcoHealth Alliance (a New

York City-based NGO that is working with the University of California, Davis to manage the (b) (6), recently planned to visit Wuhan to meet with Shi.

### U.S.-China Workshop Explores Research Partnerships

(b) (5)

CLEARED :

(b) (6), ESTH

(b) (6), HHS ()

(b) (6) NIH/NIAID ()

(b) (6) USAID ()

(b) (6), National Science Foundation ()

(b) (6), CDC ()

(b) (6), ESTH

APPROVED:

(b) (6) ()

SBU

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<Wuhan Institute of Virology.BJesth.dccx>