

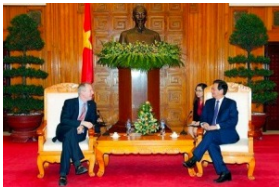


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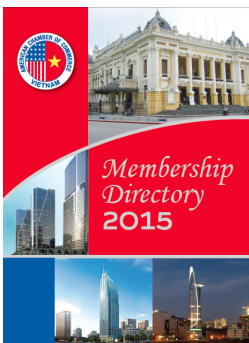
PM receives Amb Osius, Membership Directory, TET Holidays, APCAC Business Summit

FEATURES



Prime Minister receives new U.S. Ambassador Osius

Amb Osius expressed hope that the TPP would be concluded in Mar 2015 and submitted to Congress for approval in May. The U.S. expects to become largest trade and investment partner with Vietnam; moreover, the US also supports Viet Nam's viewpoints on regional security issues and is making efforts for the full removal of arms sale ban on Viet Nam, he said. Prime Minister Dung said Viet Nam attaches importance to the Comprehensive Partnership relations with the U.S. and expects to promote the relationship more effectively to contribute to international and regional peace, stability, cooperation and development.



Renew your membership for 2015 to make sure your company profile included in 2015 AmCham Membership Directory - **DEADLINE: JANUARY 15**

It's time to renew your membership for 2015 and continue your involvement in AmCham, with opportunities for networking, information-sharing, and marketing. By participating actively in AmCham, you can help guide and participate in communication efforts to improve the business environment in key areas such as customs administration and trade facilitation, education and training for human capital that supports FDI, and food safety. **Renew NOW to make sure your company profile included in the 2015 Membership Directory. A few advertising spaces are available..**

Please contact our [Membership Team](#) for more information on Membership Renewal/Joining and Directory.



TET Lunar New Year - Year of the Goat - Official Holidays

Traditionally, there are five main days of celebration: Têt New Year's Eve (Feb 17), and The First (Feb 18), Second (Feb 19), Third (Feb 20), and Fourth (Feb 21) of Têt Nguyen Đán. Officially, the holidays are Feb 17 - 23, but the Government decided at its regular November meeting to make the government offices' holidays period nine days. Government officials will work on Sat, Feb 14 in order to have nine days of holidays from Sun, Feb 15, to Mon, Feb 23.



2015 APCAC Business Summit, Singapore, Mar 11-13

The Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore are pleased to host the 2015 APCAC Business Summit. The theme, "The United States and Asia - New Opportunities in the Pacific Century," builds on previous summits' themes about Asia's growth and global influence. Held at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre March 11-13, 2015, the conference offers a valuable opportunity to gather with peers and government officials and experience Singapore during its 50th anniversary celebration.

Korean Air - Daily flight between Seoul & Houston from May

Korean Air, America's largest Asian airline, is launching daily flight between Seoul and Houston from May 2015. More on Korean Air's programs, routes, frequencies and partners is available at www.koreanair.com

Jan 20, *Smoothing Your Exporting to U.S. and EU Markets*



AmCham Vietnam and AIG Vietnam are organizing an executive roundtable discussion to support our US and EU Sourcing Agents and Companies by providing critical information you need to know when requesting your suppliers to meet the insurance contractual requirements and D&B solution to ensure a smooth exporting journey.

Sourcing Agents and Companies based in Vietnam for US and EU markets are welcome to join us this event.

Jan 28, AmCham Palooza Party at Movenpick Hotel Saigon



AmCham will continue its series of monthly informal networking events at the coolest and latest nightspots in Ho Chi Minh City. The monthly Palooza Party is a platform to develop new friendships, networking opportunities and information exchange. People from all age groups are welcome to attend - there's no age limit, you just have to be young at heart! Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring your business cards!

AmCham Member Discounts Program



The AmCham Member Discounts Program is provided as one of our Membership Benefits. It serves as a mutually beneficial opportunity for both AmCham Members and AmCham Discount Partners. Members must present their AmCham Membership Card to receive special, privileged discounts offered by AmCham Discount Partners. A listing of discount offers is available in the annual Membership Discount Handbook (hardcopy) and on the AmCham website.

Networking Opportunities with AmCham HCMC



AmCham HCMC offers many opportunities to market your company's products and services to AmCham members, the business community and the general public. Our services include:

- Event Sponsorship
- Event Management Support
- Network (Advertise) on AmCham's website: plus 7.7k twitter followers, 5.7k facebook fans
- Announcement in Weekly Email: 4,500+ AmCham company representatives and subscribers.

AmCham Member Companies are offered 3 complimentary announcements in 2015.

- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Directory
- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Discount Handbook
- Advertising on AmCham Discount Online

News and Issues Updates



Internet slow? ... yet another internet cable cut

In 2014, the AAG cable was cut three times, slowing down Internet speeds when Vietnamese users utilized services hosted overseas: first cut on July 16, again on September 15. On September 29, with the second rupture yet to be repaired, a third break was found on the same cable section. The long estimated repair time, up to one month, makes the rupture, on section S1H, which connects the Vietnamese coastal city of Vung Tau and Hong Kong, of the AAG (Asia Gateway Pacific) cable system, one of the most serious such incidents.



AmCham & Association of Vietnam Retailers: Food Safety Seminar Presentations

AmCham's Food & Beverage Committee recently organized a Seminar on "Food Safety: Responsibilities of Manufacturers, Distributors, Retailers" together with the Association of Vietnam Retailers (AVR) to promote understanding of food safety in Vietnam's economic and social environment. The aim of the seminar was to connect members of supply chains, food safety regulators, manufacturers, distributors, retailers and consumers; sharing and discussing about issues and concerns regarding food safety. This was also an opportunity for participants to exchange information, to enhance mutual understanding, and to raise awareness and their responsibility regarding food safety.



TPP Investment: Taiwan's United Textile builds textile industrial park in An Giang

Taiwan's United Textile Co. Ltd. broke ground for a \$100 million garment factory in the Mekong province of An Giang on Dec 23, 2014. The facility will be built in two phases. In the first phase, United Textile will build eight factories (workshops), eight warehouses and other facilities on 54.7ha and employ some 12,000 workers out of the 29,000 it is eventually expected to hire. The company said the total investment in the project would go up to \$500 million if things go smoothly.



Vietnam's New Housing Law - Presentations

Vietnam is preparing to take a big step forward in opening its market to foreigners wishing to buy homes, second homes or investment properties here. As of July 1, the Housing Law's new rules allowing foreign ownership of certain types of villas and condos will mark a significant advance from the past "pilot program" that offered more limited rights to foreign buyers. Of course, there are important restrictions on such purchases, and many questions remain to be addressed in detailed implementing rules. In the meantime, the move has already breathed new life into the troubled property market, introducing hopes of greater liquidity and a stronger market generally, with spin off benefits for the design and construction industry, management service providers, and financial institutions. Click the link to view and download the presentations.



AmCham Supplier Day - Presentations

AmCham's Manufacturing Committee organized a "Supplier Day" to support AmCham manufacturing members' efforts to expand the list of qualified local suppliers. The event also provided an opportunity for well-qualified suppliers to meet potential AmCham customers in the manufacturing sector and to grow their business. Sponsored by Datalogic and Long Hau Industrial Park, the event attracted nearly 200 participants from both AmCham manufacturing leaders and representatives from the local supply chain. Intel Products Vietnam and Di Central Vietnam opened the event with presentations of on-line guidance for suppliers and electronic data interchange (EDI) between buyers and suppliers. In the second session, networking opportunities for both manufacturers and suppliers were offered. The key objective in the second session was to provide business conversations between AmCham manufacturers and pre-registered, screened and qualified Vietnam suppliers.



U.S.-backed Alliance to Facilitate Trade through Public-Private Dialogue

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) joined the American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry to establish a new Vietnam Trade Facilitation Alliance (VTFA) through a memorandum of understanding. The private sector-led alliance will provide policy and technical assistance to the General Department of Vietnam Customs and relevant trade facilitation agencies and authorities in Vietnam to advance Vietnam's competitiveness.



World Bank: Taking Stock; Recent Economic Developments in Vietnam, Dec 2014

The performances of foreign-invested and domestic firms remain dichotomous. The foreign-invested sector continues to be a significant source of growth, and accounts for nearly 20 percent of GDP, 22 percent of total investment, supplies two thirds of merchandise exports and provides a quarter of employment in the enterprise sector. Vietnam's manufacturing sector continues to be the main draw for foreign investors: manufacturing accounts for 70 percent of registered FDI. At the same time, a rising number of domestically-owned businesses have been closing or suspending operations.

AmCham Vietnam - HCMC received Prime Minister's Certificates of Merit

At AmCham's 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on September 18, 2014, Vice Chairman of HCMC



People's Committee Le Thanh Liem handed the Prime Minister's Certificates of Merit to AmCham Vietnam - HCM City and to Mr. Herb Cochran, Executive Director for their excellent performance in supporting and promoting trade and investment in Ho Chi Minh City.

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