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## US Defense Secretary supports TPP, Vietnam manufacturing base, Shrimp Anti-dumping

### FEATURES



#### U.S. Defense Secretary supports TPP and TPA

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter jumped into the debate over trade, arguing approval of fast-track Trade Promotion Authority and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement would bolster U.S. security ties in the fast-growing Asia region. He also stressed the benefits of the proposed trade deal to U.S. businesses and entrepreneurs. "There are already more than 525 million middle-class consumers in Asia, and we expect there to be 3.2 billion in the region by 2030," he said.



#### Vietnam loses appeal in WTO shrimp dispute with U.S.

The World Trade Organization's Appellate Body on Apr 7 ejected all of Vietnam's appeals in its challenge of the U.S. Commerce Department's decision to maintain anti-dumping duties on Vietnamese shrimp in three departmental reviews of an existing duty order. This means that the earlier ruling by a dispute settlement panel stands in its entirety, including the points on which it ruled against the United States, which the U.S. did not appeal.



#### Interview with Emre Olcer, P&G Vietnam General Manager

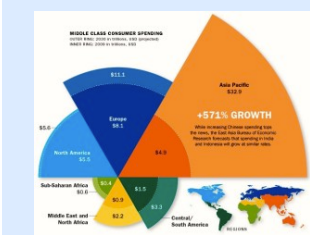
We are going to invest US\$100 million in building a Gillette shave care plant in VSIP II. The plant will provide jobs for approximately 300 people, and one of the only three Gillette manufacturing plants in Asia. Vietnamese technicians and engineers are being sent to the U.S., Germany and Poland for technology training. Products from the new plant will serve both Vietnamese and Asian consumers.



#### Japanese printer makers turn Vietnam into manufacturing base

Fuji Xerox is planning to turn its plant in Hai Phong into a production hub which will serve the Asia Pacific region. The plant, which cost \$120 million, is now able to produce two million units per year and currently employs 1,600 people. Fuji Xerox's president Tadahito Yamamoto cited the approaching ASEAN Economic Community and Trans-Pacific Partnership as contributing to the firm's decision to expand the plant. Canon and Kyocera also have significant operations in Vietnam.

#### The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries



Growth of both multinationals and the global economy will depend increasingly on emerging market consumers, especially in Asia (ASEAN, India, and China). They are spending more on basic necessities like homes and food, but also extras such as meat, mobile phones, and air conditioners. Global middle-class spending should rise from \$21.3 trillion in 2009 to \$55.7 trillion in 2030. Asia's share should increase from 23% in 2009 to 59% in 2030.

**Events, Meetings, Special Offers**



Our special thanks to **Coca-Cola** for being our George Washington Sponsor of this event, to **United Airlines** for donating 2 round-trip economy class tickets to the US as Lucky Draw prizes, and to **Riverside Apartments, Nike, Baskin Robbins, Palm Garden Resort, Binh An Village**, for their support. We welcome and appreciate your sponsorship in cash, products, and services. Please contact our [Events Team](#) for Sponsorship details.

**KitchenAid® 'KitchenAid' is launched in Vietnam, exclusively distributed by Moriitalia**

KitchenAid is the best selling mixer brand in the world. 2 of 3 chefs worldwide are using KitchenAid. The first machine carrying this name was introduced in the year 1919 and, from its very beginning, KitchenAid became most popular among consumers. Since then, KitchenAid has stemmed an entire range of high-performance appliances, ... all created with the same attention to detail, quality craftsmanship, versatile technology and timeless design. For more information, please visit [www.moriitalia.com](http://www.moriitalia.com)

**AmCham welcomes New Member Companies**



AmCham Vietnam - HCMC is pleased to welcome our NEW members who joined us in the last four months. We encourage you to welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses.



**Korean Air - Fly to your favorite destinations with Korean Air on First & Prestige class**

Korean Air, with a fleet of 155 aircraft, is one of the world's top 20 airlines, and operates more than 400 flights per day to 127 cities in 45 countries. It is a founding member of the SkyTeam alliance, which together with its 19 members, offers its 552 million annual passengers a worldwide system of more than 15,000 daily flights covering 993 destinations in 187 countries [www.koreanair.com](http://www.koreanair.com)

**Seeking funding for the 7th Child Genital Reconstruction Surgeries mission**, for 21 children in Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City who have lost their genitals through birth malformations or traumatic injuries. Dr. Roberto DeCastro, Dr. Aurelie Chiappinelli and Dr. Emilio Merlini will perform these infant and child operations at no charge for the disadvantaged families. The mission requires \$89,000 (and a second mission in November 2015 will need an estimated \$90,000). This is a volunteer mission. Your help is sincerely appreciated (US contributions are tax deductible). For additional information contact: Greig Craft: 0903401882 or email to: [greig.craft@aipf-vietnam.org](mailto:greig.craft@aipf-vietnam.org)



## LEGAL COMMITTEE

### Apr 14: Legal & VBF Liaison Committee April Meeting (For Members Only)

Regular monthly meeting of the committee to review upcoming events, discuss and prepare positions on key issues, laws and regulations relating to trade and investment between Vietnam and the United States.



## AMCHAM PALOOZA

### Apr 22: AmCham Palooza Party at Novotel Saigon Centre

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! The AmCham Palooza is a popular group that holds networking events and happy hours regularly to increase communication amongst membership and expats.



### Apr 23: AmCham Networking Night: Retail Updates

Vietnam Retail Real Estate Market Update - Q1 2015: Details of activity in one of the world's most appealing retail markets, including retail spending, new entrants, rents and leasing and development activity in the first quarter of 2015; APAC Consumer Survey - Vietnam: How do we like shopping; Global: How do brands create global impact through digital assets, and establish the inroads to new frontiers?



### JOIN US: Become a Member of AmCham Vietnam - HCMC

Expand your business by joining our AmCham Membership! We currently have almost 500 organizations represented by 1,000 representatives. They are multinational firms, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs. **Benefits include:** Networking, Information-Sharing, Advocacy and Problem Solving, visibility and Corporate Exposure. Contact [Mimi Pham](#) for joining or additional information on membership.



### AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

The Corporate Partnership comes with a range of membership dues, event sponsorship, advertising, and exclusive benefits. One all-inclusive Corporate Partnership annual, semi-annual, or quarterly billing simplifies your businesses' sponsorship efforts. Benefits in each Partnership Package include:

- Logo on "Corporate Partners" banner on AmCham website homepage
- Logo on "Corporate Partners" banner in Weekly Update Email
- Company profile on the "Corporate Partnership" page on AmCham website
- Corporate profile on screen during cocktail reception at Members' Nights
- Special recognition/Thank You Page in Membership Directory
- Special recognition at all business events' backdrop/banner

- Special recognition in all email signatures

For full information on benefits of each package, please click [HERE](#) or contact [Cindy Tran](#).



## Marketing 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 [www.amchamvietnam.com](http://www.amchamvietnam.com): 450,000+ views/year, 200,000 visitors/year plus 8.3k twitter followers, 5.9k facebook fans, 4.1k LinkedIn followers.
- Announcement in Weekly Email: 4,500+ AmCham company representatives and subscribers  
**AmCham 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



## 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 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.

## News and Issues Updates



### Asian Development Outlook 2015 - Vietnam Summary

Rising FDI helped accelerate Vietnam's GDP growth to 6.0% in 2014. Inflation abated, and robust external accounts enabled the rebuilding of foreign reserves. Growth is forecast to edge higher again in 2015 and 2016, while inflation remains relatively low. Policy challenges are to reform banks and state enterprises and to integrate domestic firms into global value chains.



### International arrivals down 23.4%, ... but visa fees up?

This was the sharpest fall in many years. "Tourist numbers are down so they increase the visa price to compensate ... ?" said one commentator, who added that the policy change "only results in even fewer tourists," and suggested that Vietnam "lower the fees, give more countries visa exemption to attract more tourists."



### Uber gets conditional approval in HCM City

The Government of Vietnam has approved a proposal by the Ministry of Transport to create favorable conditions for Uber but assign different agencies to monitor it to guarantee healthy competition. Ministry inspectors will undertake snap checks on Uber and failure to comply will be fined. The ministry has also asked the Ministry of Finance to oversee Uber in terms of tax matters, the Ministry of Industry and Trade to monitor e-commerce, the State Bank of Vietnam to inspect card payments by the Uber app and the HCMC government to see whether Uber observes its investment certificate. This week, Uber launched in its 300th city, Amman, in its 56th country, Jordan. The 6-year-old company's value? An estimated \$40 billion.

### P&G to invest \$100 million in new Gillette razor factory in Binh Duong



Procter & Gamble (P&G) Viet Nam announced an investment of US\$100 million to build a Gillette razor plant in Vietnam Singapore Industrial Park II, in Binh Duong Province, in a ceremony to celebrate its 20th anniversary in the country. P&G was among the first U.S. companies to enter Viet Nam after the Viet Nam - US normalization of relations. It has become one of the top fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies in the country.



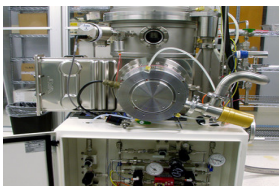
### Representative Sander Levin, leader of the Democrats, on TPP

In Levin's 32 years in Congress, he has voted in favor of 14 trade pacts and opposed four - defying then-President Clinton to vote against the North American Free Trade Agreement. How he will vote this time remains unknown to the White House, and maybe even to him. "It's all about trying to shape a trade agreement so you understand the impact on people, their livelihoods," Levin said.



### House of Representatives Minority Leader visit to Vietnam Mar 30-Apr 1

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, the leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, visited Vietnam Mar 30 - Apr 1 accompanied by nine other Members. The California Democrat has essentially endorsed the approach advocated by House Ways & Means Committee Ranking Member Sander Levin, who has argued that lawmakers should focus their attention now on ensuring the administration gets the details of TPP right before approving TPA, or 'fast track,' which would allow the White House to submit a trade deal to Congress for straight-up-or-down votes without any amendments. See below post for details of Levin's proposal.



### Businesses protest plan to curb import of used machinery with revised Circular 20

"To be honest, a 20-year-old machine made in Sweden is better than a brand new one produced in China." Businesses are reluctant to buy Chinese machines even if they are new since the quality cannot be compared with those made in Europe, Japan or the US 10 years earlier. Nguyen Van Dong, chairman of Vietnam Printing Association, called the ban "unreasonable," "impractical" and "baseless," arguing that machines used in different sectors have different life expectancies. The proposed circular would only help Chinese companies dominate the market by forcing small and medium businesses to buy cheap machinery from the neighboring country.



### Vinatex to build textile and apparel raw materials complex - for TPP

Spread over 20ha in Que Son District, the VND1.14 trillion (US\$53.5 million) project will include a fibre factory that will produce 4,600 tonnes of products per year, a textile and dyeing factory with a 5,000-tonne annual capacity, and Huong An garment factory with 20 knitwear production lines, which will produce 20 to 25 million products per year. Vinatex will also build a factory that will treat 5,000cu.m of wastewater per day to serve the production needs at the complex.



### HCM City's Metro Line #1 picks up pace for completion

Construction on Ho Chi Minh City's Metro Line #1 has been accelerated with the anticipated completion date brought forward to 2019, and with the first trains to begin running by 2020. Duong Huu Hoa, deputy director of the Project Management Unit Metro Line 1 under the Ho Chi Minh City Management Authority for Urban Railways (MAUR) said, "we are speeding up the implementation of package 2 which covers the line along the Hanoi Highway. So far, we have completed more than half of the main construction work."

### Gov't pushes for reforms to improve business environment



The Prime Minister will focus on improving the business environment and strengthening the economy's ability to compete in 2015 and 2016. Key areas of Government Resolution 19/2015 released Mar 12 include pushing for reforms to reduce time-consuming and wasteful administrative procedures, enhancing governmental offices' transparency and accountability, and adopting regulations that are in accordance with international commitments and standards.



### Prime Minister's Certificates of Merit awarded to AmCham Vietnam - HCMC

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 and Vietnam.

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