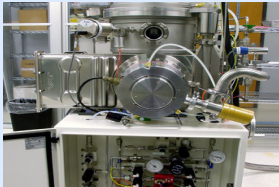


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Business protests curb on used equipment imports; VINATEX invests for TPP; HCMC Metro

FEATURES



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."



Vietnam is more attractive than China: Fuji Xerox CEO

Even though there is a lack of qualified local suppliers, Vietnam is a member of ASEAN, which is a giant and fast-growing market, plus the VSIP infrastructure in Hai Phong also meets the company's demands. Expanding the Hai Phong plant is thus the top choice of Fuji Xerox. Fuji Xerox's two Chinese facilities, in Shanghai and Shenzhen, will focus on serving the Chinese market, while the made-in-Vietnam products will target ASEAN and global markets.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



[Apr 5 Easter Dim Sum & Brunch at Hotel Equatorial](#)

Pamper your friends and family at hotel Equatorial to enjoy a fabulous Easter Sunday on April 05th. Orientica is famous for having the best selection of Dim Sum in town which includes over 30 fabulous dishes priced at just VND398,000++/ person, from 09:00 - 14:30. A special Easter brunch buffet is available at Chit Chat restaurant priced at just VND790,000++/ person, from 11:30 to 14:30. Hotel Equatorial, 242 Tran Binh Trong, District 5 Tel: 08 3839 7777, ext: 8000 (Chit Chat), 8333 (Orientica). Email: dine@hcm.equatorial.com



[International Boarding & Day School Fairs - Hanoi \(26/3\) & Ho Chi Minh City \(28/3\)](#)

You are cordially invited to attend one of Capstone Vietnam's Spring International Boarding & Day School Fairs featuring 11 top schools from the US, Canada and Switzerland. If you're interested in exploring the benefits of an overseas high school education, this is a great opportunity to meet with school representatives and learn about all that these schools have to offer. In addition, Capstone Vietnam educational advisers will be on hand to offer expert advice and guide you through the application process.



[Korean Air - Special Offers To America](#)

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 125 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



[Mar 23 Manufacturing Committee Meeting \(Members only\)](#)

Regular monthly meeting of the Manufacturing Committee for networking, information-sharing and planning efforts to improve the business environment and promote trade and investment between Vietnam and the U.S.



[Mar 25 AmCham Palooza Party at Renaissance Riverside Hotel Saigon](#)

AmCham will continue its series of regular informal networking events at the coolest and latest nightspots in Ho Chi Minh City. The 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! Dress code: Business Casual



[JOIN US: Become a Member of AmCham Vietnam - HCMC](#)

Expand your business by joining our AmCham Membership! We currently have almost 50 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's 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 2015 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](#).

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.



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 www.amchamvietnam.com: 450,000+ views/year, 200,000 visitors/year plus 8.2k 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

News and Issues Updates



PEB Steel eyes Japan as potential market

2015 officially opened a new developing era for PEB Steel Buildings with a remark of exporting a project to Japan. This "project" highlights the real growth and prospects the company. The Japanese Investor Nsengi had to inspect every stage of the project prior to Design, Detailing, Cutting, Welding, Blasting, Painting and Loading. Nsengi were fully satisfied with PEB Steel. This successful export gives PEB Steel an opportunity to diversify on the export market besides our traditional markets such as South East Asia (Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia), South Asia (Pakistan & India), South Western Pacific Ocean (Papua New Guinea), Africa (Ethiopia, Angola, Solomon)



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.



HCM City leaders committed to improve investment environment

In a meeting with FDI business associations Mar 4, HCM City leaders pledged to cut red tape, reduce administrative procedures; increase business-government consultations to make the business environment fair, transparent, efficient; and actively develop proposals to the local authorities and the central government to develop the most favorable policies for enterprises to expand their business. At the same time, leaders requested that "FDI companies increase production, expand business, and work to integrate domestic firms into your supply chains. If you face any difficulty or problem, please contact promptly the City's leaders and related departments so that they can offer timely solutions."



PM: Improving the business environment requires specific targets

Improving the business environment and national competitiveness requires specific target and solutions, stressed PM Nguyen Tan Dung at the Cabinet's meeting held on Mar 2. In the spirit, the Cabinet members deliberated on a draft resolution on key tasks and solutions to improve business environment and national competitiveness in 2015, which will detail assignments of each ministry, agency and locality. By the end of 2015, the time required for carrying out customs procedures for exports and for business establishment is expected to be 13 days and six days, respectively.



Top U.S. officials build public and congressional support for TPA, TPP

Senior U.S. Government officials fanned out to four states heavily dependent on exports to build both public and congressional support for Trade Promotion Authority and the Trans Pacific Partnership, which face Congressional votes in coming months. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to grow dramatically. "Six years ago, there were 525 million middle-class consumers in the region. By 2030, that number will swell to 3.2 billion," and account for 59% of global middle class consumer spending. ...



U.S. Labor Department issues report on Honduran worker rights

The U.S. Department of Labor released a report on Feb 27 that raises serious concern regarding the effective enforcement of labor laws in Honduras under the labor chapter of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). The AFL-CIO, which filed the initial complaint along with Honduran organizations, said it welcomed the report, but criticized the length of time it took, three years, to complete the report. "The delay is yet another reminder that our government is operating under a broken trade model and it's failing to protect labor rights," union President Richard Trumka said. The report provides recommendations to address the concerns and calls for the contact points established under Article 16.4 of CAFTA-DR to consult to develop and implement a monitoring and action plan.



Amb Froman: Time to update TPA, support SMEs in global trade

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman urged Congress to pass bipartisan TPA legislation that would support small businesses' integration into global supply chains. "You've probably heard of Gillette and Oakley, but what about El Dorado Molds? That's a company in Sacramento County, CA, that builds plastic molds for Gillette razors and Oakley sunglasses among other products that are made in America and sold around the world. Large, well-known companies depend on small businesses for the inputs and services they need to remain globally competitive and that means trade is important to those small businesses too. ...

Labor Obligations in TPP and other Free Trade Agreements

USTR filed a Federal Register Notice announcing a dispute settlement proceeding under the CAFTA-DR FTA regarding Guatemala's failure to effectively enforce its labor laws, which illustrates the enhanced importance of labor obligations in TPP and other FTAs, based on



the "May 10, 2007" bipartisan Congressional-Executive Agreement. The Agreement was a "breakthrough," with critical new labor obligations relating to fundamental labor rights being made subject to full dispute settlement. The "May 10" provisions were included in the FTA with Peru and, thereafter, Colombia, Panama and South Korea, and have been the starting point of the Obama Administration's labor negotiations in TPP.



USTR Launches WTO Challenge to Chinese Export Subsidy Program

USTR Michael Froman announced that the U.S. has pursued dispute settlement consultation with China at the WTO concerning China's export subsidy program. Under this program China seems to provide prohibited export subsidies to manufacturers and producers across seven economic sectors and dozens of sub-sectors located in more than one hundred and fifty industrial clusters throughout China known as "Demonstration Bases." China has given almost \$1 billion over a three-year period to "Common Service Platform suppliers" that agree to provide discounted or free services to Chinese companies, including exporters located in the Demonstration Bases, according to publicly available documents.



White House Summit on Cybersecurity and Consumer Protection

As a nation, the United States has become highly digitally dependent. Our economy, national security, educational systems, and social lives have all become deeply reliant on cyberspace. Our use of digital networks provides a platform for innovation and prosperity and a means to improve general welfare around the country and around the globe, driving unparalleled growth. But this dependency also creates risks that threaten national security, private enterprises and individual rights. It is a threat not just in the United States, but one that everyone, everywhere who is connected to cyberspace faces.

By focusing on risk management instead of compliance, the Cybersecurity Framework has the potential to transform cybersecurity on a global scale.

We tried the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and it works - Intel

Intel Corp. put the voluntary cybersecurity framework into action and has found it to be a useful tool, said company officials. The Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, offered by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in February 2014, has provided Intel with a better understanding of its cyber risks and data security priorities, among other benefits, said Malcolm Harkins, the company's chief security and privacy officer, and Kent Landfield, its standards and technology policy director. The guidelines are intended to help enhance the cyber defenses of tech companies, utilities, banks and other businesses that work with critical infrastructure.



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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