



ASEAN and TPP, Car sales soar, EU-VN FTA, Dams on the Mekong

FEATURES



U.S. - ASEAN Summit, Feb 15-16, 2016

A population of over 626 million, an economy of \$2.5 trillion, ASEAN is the 3rd-largest economy in Asia. U.S. companies invest more in ASEAN, \$190 billion, than any other market in Asia.

This unprecedented gathering - the first hosted by the United States with the ASEAN leaders - builds on the deeper partnership that the United States has forged with ASEAN since 2009 and will further advance the Administration's rebalance to Asia and the Pacific.



Car sales soar, along with congestion and environmental concerns

Up 55% in 2015 over 2014, raising questions about managing issues like traffic congestion, infrastructure requirements and carbon dioxide emissions.



EU-VN Free Trade Agreement now available online

It allows all interested stakeholders to become fully conversant with its content well in advance of the ratification processes both in the EU and in Vietnam. The text will be subject to a legal review to verify its consistency and ensure that all provisions are formulated in a legally-sound manner. It will then be translated into all EU languages as well as into Vietnamese before being signed and ratified by both parties.



Vietnam on board with EU car rules in EU-VN FTA

The agreement should make it easier for European firms to sell vehicles in Vietnam but more difficult for American. The EU-VN FTA includes a commitment that cars sold in Vietnam should follow "international vehicle regulations." The commitment also covers parts for these vehicles and also car parts also used in minibuses (of up to 5 tons) and in commercial trucks.



Eleven planned dams on Mekong threaten more than half of fish catch

"When you have 11 dams there ain't a lot left when you get to the bottom," said Ian Cox, director of the International Fisheries Institute at Britain's Hull University. Overfishing is already taking a toll. Laos plans to borrow heavily to fund nine hydropower dams across the Mekong, and Cambodia plans to construct two. More than half of fish catches could be lost. Nutrient levels within the water are expected to fall by 50% due to trapped sediment.



An Absolute-ly Fabulous Escape to Central Vietnam

Daily golf rounds at the 18-hole Sir Nick Faldo Championship Golf Course, unlimited spa treatments by skilful therapists, and delicious spreads of Vietnamese, Asian, Seafood and International delights. Coupled with a stylish and relaxing room on a resort surrounded by amazing UNESCO Heritage Sites. What are you waiting for? Book this absolute-ly amazing offer* at Angsana Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam from now until 30 March 2016 from just 5,200,000 VND++ per night.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



2016 AmCham Membership Card & Discount Handbook

The 2016 AmCham Membership Cards and Discount Handbooks are being delivered to Members. If you have not received them, please kindly contact our **Membership Team**.



New Decree for Work Permit , Effective 1 April 2016

A new decree number 11/2016/ND-CP dated 03 Feb 2016 has been published to define the employment and work permit conditions for foreign workers in Vietnam and will go into effect 1 April 2016.



27 Feb Bordeaux Rendez Vous at Caravelle Saigon

Wine Tasting (VND250.000): Where you will have the unique opportunity to sample more than 18 Grand Cru Wines from all Bordeaux sub regions / 2PM to 3.30PM.

Wine Dinner (VND2,500,000 or VND1,700,000): Where seating at a chateau table, you will have the rare chance to try most of the wines in magnums with a selection of rare vintages, a lifetime experience for every premium wine lover / 7PM.

Please confirm your attendance before February 23th. Hotline: Miss Nhi at nhi.tran@tankhoa.com, 0934 195 895.



Attractive Early Bird Deals to U.S. from Ho Chi Minh City with Korean Air

Korean Air, established in 1969, is one of the world's top 20 airlines and carried more than 24 million passengers in 2012. Korean Air operates in excess of 200 flights per day to 128 cities in 45 countries on six continents with a fleet of 166 aircraft including ten A380s. With its modern airplanes and over 20,000 professional employees, Korean Air offers customers safety, convenience and comfort. Korean Air's award-winning cuisine of Korean and Western meals and state-of-the-art inflight entertainment system provide passengers ultimate satisfaction.



JOIN US: Become a Member of AmCham Vietnam - HCMC

Expand your business by joining us! 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 [Ms. Sam Hoang](#) for joining or additional information on membership.



AmCham welcomes New Member Companies

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

Welcome New & Rejoin members in 2016: *i-VY, Bates Chi & Partners Vietnam, BNP Paribas, L&E International, Sullivan, Krieger, Truong, Spagnola & Klausner LLP, Hermes Power Investment Corporation, Steelman Partners Vietnam Co., Ltd., Night & Day Security Services Co., Ltd., Kizuna JV Corporation, 7-Eleven, Inc (Vietnam Branch), PSL Co., Ltd., QNB Rep Office in HCMC, Dai Phat Group Corporation, Saigon Asset Management, Estee Lauder (Vietnam) LLC, UWC Precision Engineering Co., Ltd., KKR Singapore, An Huy B.T. Co, Arkansas State University, Pacific Cross, California South University, Duffy Agency, Harvey Law Group, Tan Khoa Co., AVIS Vietnam, Hotel Nikko Saigon, McLarty Associates, Minh Hoang Garment Co., Ltd. Officiance, Rentokil Initial Vietnam.*



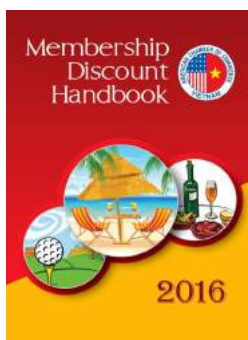
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to SEAMOC for joining us as a Bronze Corporate Partner.

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](#).



2016 AmCham Discount Program

The AmCham Member Discounts Program is a mutually beneficial opportunity for both AmCham Members and AmCham Discount Partners. Prestigious vendors are invited to offer AmCham members special discounts on their services or products. Please contact [Ms. Sam Hoang](#)

(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 at [HERE](#))



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: 646K views/yr; 275K visitors/yr (avg. 54K / 23K visitors/views per month) and 9.5K twitter followers, 7.5K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.2k LinkedIn followers.
- Announcement in Weekly Email: 4.8k AmCham company representatives and subscribers.
AmCham Companies are offered 3 complimentary announcements a year.
- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Directory
- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Discount Handbook
- Advertising on AmCham Discount Online

News and Issues



TPP & New Developments in Global Trade: Labor and Environment

"When you have 11 dams there ain't a lot left when you get to the bottom," said Ian Cox, director of the International Fisheries Institute at Britain's Hull University.

Overfishing is already taking a toll. Laos plans to borrow heavily to fund nine hydropower dams across the Mekong, and Cambodia plans to construct two. More than half of fish catches could be lost. Nutrient levels within the water are expected to fall by 50% due to trapped sediment.



Finance Committee Chairman explains process of TPP ratification

The signing ceremony ... is just beginning. We'll debate the merits of each and every provision of this agreement and consider how it will impact workers and job creators in our country and how it will affect the health of our economy. I will focus on the process by which Congress will consider and debate this agreement ... it is important that people, including members of Congress, the administration, stakeholders, and the media, have a full understanding of how this is going to work. As I've said many times, the TPP is an extremely important agreement, and we need to get it done. But, given that importance, we need to focus more on getting it right than on getting it done fast.



Is it too late for Congress to vote on TPP in 2016?

In the announced schedule for the House of Representatives in 2016, there are only 59 "legislative days" after May 18, when the ITC Report on the impact of the TPP on at the U.S. economy is due to be released. This does not preclude Congress acting faster, but it does shift power from the White House to Congressional leadership. If this Congress runs out the clock and the TPP has not passed both House and Senate, the process would die and have to restart in 2017.



TPP signing on Feb 4; "... beginning of the next phase for TPP"

"After five years of negotiation, signing the TPP is an important milestone in our efforts to set high-standard rules of the road in the Asia Pacific region, and to deliver an agreement that will benefit American workers, farmers and businesses," said USTR Michael Froman. The TPP Ministers' Statement said ""The signing ... is the beginning of the next phase for TPP. ... our respective domestic processes.."



U.S. FDA issues warning letters to seafood processors / importers

Seafood processors without compliant seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point plans and dairy farms that sold animals that had illegal drug residues were among some the first warning letters released in 2016 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA has the power to detain the company's shipments at the U.S. border unless the issues are addressed in a timely manner.



Meaningful Public-Private consultations needed for competitiveness

Between 1992 and 2014 Vietnam attained a remarkable average annual GDP growth rate of 6.9%. But, the sources of growth that underpinned much of this period of economic transformation ready availability of labor and a structural shift of national production from subsistence agriculture to industry and services cannot be sustained. Since a large share of Vietnam's growth is based manufacturing and international trade, more competitive freight logistics, the backbone of import-export activity, should be among those new growth drivers.



Vietnam's economy increasingly relies on FDI exports

Vietnam's GDP is about \$198 billion (WB); exports are about \$162.1 billion. Exports from FDI factories account for \$115.1 billion, 71% of total exports. And 90% of the value of Vietnam's exports are imported components and materials. In 2009, FDI accounted for 41% of Vietnam's exports.



Walmart's Strategic Initiative to Develop Vietnamese Suppliers

Walmart and VTFA organized a "Women Owned Business Supplier Development Conference" that attracted 220 representatives from 120 companies, who learned about the "how to" and "why" of Walmart's global Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative in a morning session. And 34 of the companies had an opportunity to meet Walmart sourcing specialists in the afternoon in B2B discussions to take the first steps to becoming qualified to join Walmart's global supply chains. Walmart has 11,164 stores in 27 countries. And more than half of Walmart's stores, 6,357, are outside of the U. S. Click link to view and download the Conference e-Book, view the 282 photos, and browse the extensive media coverage.



TPP will help firms gain access to 3.2 billion middle class consumers by 2030

By 2030, the Asia-Pacific region will have 3.2 billion middle class consumers. 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. Growth of both multinationals, local companies, and the global economy will depend increasingly on emerging market consumers, especially in the Asia-Pacific and Trans-Pacific Partnership Region.



12th National Party Congress, Jan 20 - 28, 2016

Over 1,500 delegates are attending the 12th Party Congress in Hanoi, representing over 4.5 million Party members. Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong said 68 centrally-run Party organisations sent their reports on the 12th National Party Congress's draft documents. The Viet Nam Fatherland Front, social organisations, administrations at different levels and many sectors held workshops and conferences to collect recommendations.



Weekly Updates Archive 2006 - 2015

Launched in August 2006 to answer many questions about Vietnam's accession to the WTO, the Weekly Update Emails provide news updates, upcoming events, explanations of details of trade and investment agreements, developments in laws and regulations affecting the business environment in Vietnam. Click the link for to visit the archives and look back over the years. Links to more than 10,000 documents providing background on a wide variety of topics, from Vietnam's WTO Accession in 2006-2007, revision of the Labour Code in 2008-2012, to the TransPacific Partnership and WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement from 2013 and ongoing.



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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