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## U.S. Senate Approves TPA; Conversations with ASEAN Insiders; Vietnam: World's Workshop

### FEATURES



#### Senate ends TPA debate (62-38) on May 21; final vote before May 25

The 62-38 vote ended debate on the bill, moving it toward a final vote. The May 21 cloture vote signals that debate is over, amendments done, and a final vote is pending. The TPA bill is now more likely to pass the Senate, as early as Fri, May 22, or over the weekend. The procedural vote all but assures final Senate passage of TPA, for which only a simple majority is required. But supporters still must defeat a few amendments that administration officials say would draw a veto. The measure would then head for an uncertain fate in the House.



#### Senate approves TPA (62-37) on Fri, May 22

A coalition of 48 Senate Republicans and 14 Democrats voted for TPA late Friday, sending the legislation to a difficult fight in the House of Representatives, where it faces more entrenched opposition from Democrats. House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) has said that the TPA bill will come up in June, after his chamber returns from a ten-day break that began on Thursday, May 21.



#### U.S. House of Representatives to consider TPA in June

Speaker John A. .Boehner, R-Ohio, called the bill a "no-brainer" and said he would try and pass it in the House. "The House will take up this measure and Republicans will do our part, but ultimately success will require Democrats' putting politics aside and doing what's best for the country," Boehner said. "Let's seize this opportunity to open new doors for the things Americans make and the people who make them. An unlikely coalition of conservative "Tea Party" Republicans and liberal Democrats are opposed to both TPA and TPP, and the vote is likely to be closer in the House than in the Senate.



#### Retreat and Rejuvenate - Unlimited Golf, Spa or Dining with Banyan Tree Lăng Cô's Ultimate Getaway to Central Vietnam

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### **June 12 Double daily flights between Narita and Houston offered by ANA-United Joint Venture**

Starting June 12, ANA will launch a new daily service between Tokyo Narita and Houston. Its service will complement United's already existing daily departure from Narita to Houston. Besides serving Houston itself, these two flights offer connections beyond to cities throughout the southern part of the United States as well as South America. HCMC customers can depart on ANA and connect to either of these flights at Narita. With these flights, customers can now enjoy greater schedule choice with attractive fares. Please visit us at [www.united.com](http://www.united.com) and [www.anaskyweb.com](http://www.anaskyweb.com) for further details.



### **Webinar: Vietnam - New Workshop of the World**

As manufacturing costs in China, and locations around the world, continue to rise, investors are searching for the new low-cost destination for their operations. Vietnam has arisen as a key manufacturing location in Southeast Asia. Vietnam - New Workshop of the World is a free webinar hosted by **Dezan Shira & Associates** and **Long Hau Industrial Park**. This webinar will help you to determine if Vietnam is suitable manufacturing location for your company.



### **May 27 Conversation with ASEAN Insiders**

Brought to you by ZICOLaw, this event will bring together practitioners from ASEAN regions to discuss their views on the ASEAN Economic Community ("AEC") and its impact on the region. The economic landscape of Southeast Asia has been transformed by rapid economic growth and demographic transitions. Countries across the region have also been shaped by institutions for regional cooperation, hence this event will be an opportunity for business communities to gain insights on the issue directly from key players.



### **May 27 AmCham Palooza Party at Pullman 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! Dress code: Business Casual

### **May 30 Green Bike 2015**

In response to World Environmental Day (June 4), Intel - AmCham in partnership with World Wide Fund - environmental partner - co-host a green bike on Saturday, 30 May 2015 at District



7, HCM City. The bike ride focuses on raising awareness for the people of protecting the environment as well as conserving 5 flagship animals in Vietnam: Tiger, Elephant, Sea turtle, Sarus crane and Saola



## June 2 Understanding Whistle-blower Protection

In today's global marketplace, it is essential for multi-national companies to adopt strict reporting policies addressing corrupt conduct. Failing to do so may subject a company to significant sanctions under the growing reach of extra-territorial anti-corruption laws. Nevertheless, many companies based in Vietnam have difficulty implementing their reporting policies due to the significant risks faced by whistle-blowers.



## June 3 AmCham's World Blood Donor Days 2015

In Vietnam, since the Government's approval of the national program for encouraging voluntary blood donation in 2000, blood donation has been steadily increased. However, the current blood donation level only meets 58% of demand. Therefore, AmCham includes this program in AmCham annual CSR Plan and appeal volunteers to join this meaningful program. For the last 4 years, 2,784 AmCham's Donors from Ho Chi Minh City, Thu Duc and Binh Duong have donated 3,770 blood units



## 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.



## 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

### Special thanks to Suntory Pepsi as a Diamond 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](#).

## 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 8.5k twitter followers, 6.0k 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



### Watch the U.S. Senate final negotiations and TPA vote on C-Span

C-SPAN televises U.S. political events, particularly live and "gavel-to-gavel" coverage of the U.S. Congress. Its coverage of political and policy events is unedited, thereby providing viewers (or listeners) with unfiltered information about politics and government



### Majority Leader confident that TPA will be approved by Senate

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell confidently predicted that the Senate will pass the pending trade legislation this week. "I point out to my members who are somewhat squeamish, as you can imagine, giving the president the power on any issue, given his expansive view of his powers on so many other issues. But this is a trade promotion authority not just for President Obama, but for the next president as well. This is a six-year trade promotion authority bill that will give the next president an opportunity to enter into additional trade agreements with other countries around the world."



### Senate Majority Leader McConnell sets TPA endgame

After a series of dueling objections, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell moved Tuesday evening, May 19 to limit debate on the TPA bill. By moving to invoke cloture, Majority Leader McConnell has set a key vote on the package that combines Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Thursday morning, May 21, but what happens then is far from certain. Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., had cautioned against truncating the debate without considering lots of amendments, though the two parties were sparring throughout the afternoon about the process.



### U.S. Senate agrees (65-33) to debate TPA, Thu, May 14, 2015

WASHINGTON, May 14 - A supermajority of U.S. senators voted Thursday to begin debate on trade promotion authority. The Senate voted 65-33 to begin debate. Thirteen Democrats voted with Republicans. Two GOP senators were absent. Republicans agreed to allow two separate votes on Thursday, most notably on legislation that includes language aimed at cracking down on China's currency manipulation. The bill passed 78-20.



## After delay, U.S. Senate agrees to move forward on TPA, TAA, Wed, May 13, 2015

Senate leaders announced May 13 that they reached an agreement to consider and likely approve Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), a day after an unusual filibuster by Democrats of their party's presidential agenda. Roughly 50 Republicans and at least a dozen Democrats have declared their intention to support TPA, but Tuesday's failed vote came from Democrats looking for a way to win approval for the currency manipulation language. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Minority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) announced a plan that allows for a separate vote on May 14 for legislation targeting China's alleged currency manipulation. This legislation is likely to pass the Senate but its ultimate fate remains in doubt in the House, with a potential presidential veto awaiting it. Still, once that measure is taken care of, the Senate would move to considering Trade Promotion Authority. McConnell's announcement signaled that the tough currency legislation is not likely to make it into law, while the TPA will."



## U.S. Senate Democrats vote to delay TPA - Tue, May 12, 2015

President Obama collided politically with his own party Tuesday when Senate Democrats stalled consideration of a trade measure that would give the administration greater authority to negotiate more freely with other countries. Administration officials and Republican leaders immediately said they would bring a measure back to the Senate floor. A procedural motion to open up debate of the fast-track legislation failed by a 52-to-45 vote, falling short of the 60 votes needed to begin consideration of the complex Pacific trade accord



## Fourteen U.S. Senators write USTR about TPP Labor Standards

In a letter to USTR Froman, Senators warned that waiting to implement standards lafter TPP goes into effect could diminish labor protections in TPP countries. "If we don't improve labor standards in TPP counties in a meaningful way, we fail to give American workers the ability to compete," said Sen. Sharrod Brown. "Before we sign a trade deal affecting 40% of the world's GDP, we must put stronger worker protections in place."



## Why the U.S. textile industry supports the White House on trade

The U.S. trade representative says it won't turn back on yarn-forward. "I assure you there will be no surprises" in the TPP negotiations, U.S. Trade Representative Froman told NCTO executives in March. "We will work with you hand and glove." As part of negotiations over the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, the U.S. is insisting on a "yarn forward" rule of origin, that only fabric produced from yarn made by a TPP country would be eligible for duty-free trade.



## What economic models tell us about TPP's effects

The TPP debate is reviving old misunderstandings about how trade agreements affect the U.S. and other economies. Over the past four years, colleagues and I have built models of the TPP that are now frequently mentioned in the debate. Since this work is likely to provide the most detailed assessment of the TPP until the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) issues its report some months from now, our results and their limitations need to be clear. Four broad insights emerge from our work:(1) The results do not suggest early, large effects from the TPP for the U.S. because our economy is so large, and 90% is minimally affected by trade; (2) TPP matters over time, by helping to move resources toward more productive firms and industries; some transitions will be difficult and costly, so we need adjustment assistance and other initiatives to facilitate worker mobility; (3) TPP will provide gains for our trade partners as



## Improving the Investment and Business Climate: From Words to Action

National Assembly's Economic Committee, the Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences, the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Central Institute for Economic Management met to discuss removing difficulties in production and business, restructuring the economy and improving competitiveness, articularly the impact of free-trade agreements and globalisation on the country's economy. They noted that FDI enterprises account for more than two thirds of Vietnam's total exports, while domestic enterprises are not connected to global supply chains.



### 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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