



TPP 98% done, Starbucks exports Vietnam coffee, Bad debts, Fall Weekend Lang Co

FEATURES



New Zealand Minister for Trade expects TPP talks to resume in Malaysia Aug 22-25.

"There is a very, very strong shared sense that this negotiation needs to be brought to a conclusion now." The negotiations would be concluded by a series of "linked bilateral negotiations". The three outstanding issues were opening up access to dairy products, intellectual property on pharmaceuticals and the auto industry. "The upset over autos was clearly not understood until we got to the [Maui] meeting and arises directly out of this very strange process whereby the United States and Japan have reached some understandings that clearly do not accommodate Mexican and Canadian interests." The talks could resume on the sidelines of the Aug 22-25 meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers.



Still lots of work to do, but TPP is 98% done

National Foreign Trade Council Chairman Alan Wolff listed the following as final issues: dairy, sugar and rice market access; intellectual property protections for biological medicines; rules of origin for automobiles; public health exemptions for tobacco; investor-state disputes; labor; exemptions for state-owned enterprises; Internet service provider liability; and a currency side agreement. In other words, a lot of work.



Starbucks exports its first coffee from Vietnam

Vietnam is recently one of the world's top exporters of robusta coffee, but its specialty-grade arabica coffee has thrived in its mountains for more than 150 years. Now Starbucks is offering its first single-origin coffee from the country with **Starbucks Reserve® Vietnam Da Lat**. Each Starbucks Reserve® coffee is sourced from small lots in coffee-growing regions in Latin America, Africa and Asia Pacific, and every coffee has a signature roast profile to bring out its unique flavors. These coffees are exported to the USA, where they are roasted with care, at the Starbucks Reserve® Roastery and Tasting Room in Seattle, to enhance their peak flavor expression. They are available in limited supply in select Starbucks® stores or **through subscription**.



Bad debts approach \$14.6 billion; VAMC looks to foreigners to help

The total bad debt of commercial banks has reached nearly VND308 trillion (US\$14.6 billion), accounting for 9.71% of the total outstanding debt, deputy chief inspector of the State Bank of Viet Nam said; however, the figure had been revised to VND122 trillion (\$5.58 billion), accounting for 3.86% of the total outstanding debt by the end of February after debt restructuring. The National Financial Supervisory Commission (NFSC) had said earlier at a

seminar that the bad debt was approximately 9% instead of the 15% assessed by the rating agency Moody's.



Stay a Night On Us a Banyan Tree Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam

With stunning views of the East Sea and the magnificent Truong Son mountain range in the background, the tranquil and intimate Banyan Tree Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam is the perfect destination for a romantic getaway with that special someone. Enjoy a Night On Us when you book a minimum of three nights at the awe-inspiring sanctuary and look forward to a time of pampering and relaxation.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



RFP 2016

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Eastin Grand Hotel Saigon provides business and leisure travelers with first-class amenities. This premium, 5 star luxury hotel is also a short drive from Tan Son Nhat International Airport as well as minutes from the bustling city center. If you would like to have more information about our hotel, we would be delighted to arrange a presentation to you.

mezz

Mezz - The newest interactive restaurant in Ho Chi Minh City opens at Sofitel Saigon Plaza

An exciting new restaurant opens at Sofitel Saigon Plaza, and food lovers throughout the city are invited to the unique sights, sounds and tastes of Mezz - the very first interactive restaurant in Ho Chi Minh City which provides a new culinary discovery with international dishes and Asian specialties, along with imported products from France.

Excellence in Flight



Korean Air - 3 Daily Flights from Ho Chi Minh to Seoul - Starting 01 December 2015

Korean Air, with a fleet of 159 aircraft, is one of the world's top 20 airlines, and operates more than 430 flights per day to 129 cities in 46 countries. It is a founding member of the Sky Team alliance, which together with its 19 members, offers its 612 million annual passengers a worldwide system of more than 16,320 daily flights covering 1,052 destinations in 177 countries. www.koreanair.com



ANA and United Airlines Introduce 'Asia Joint Venture Simple' Program to Reward SME Business Travelers

On 9 Jun 2015, All Nippon Airways (ANA) and United Airlines launched the Joint Venture (JV) Simple program, a corporate travel program that aims to support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) based in Vietnam when their employees travel on business. Through the JV Simple program, SMEs will enjoy discounts on air travel originating from Vietnam to destinations in North, Central and South America. The program gives SMEs in these countries access to a comprehensive trans-Pacific network through United and ANA that connects to over 227 destinations in the US as well as Central and South America, enabling SME employees to enjoy far more convenient travel. SME travelers will receive additional benefits on United such as premier status, lounge access and upgrades and, like any other customers, they can earn award miles by joining ANA's Mileage Club or United's MileagePlus frequent flyer program. Contact our local JV Sales team Hiramawa san at

hi.hirakawa@ana.co.jp & Alice Tu at alice.tu@united.com.

Wed, Aug 26 AmCham Palooza Party at Atrium Bar, Renaissance Riverside Hotel Saigon

Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring many of your



business cards.

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.



Thu, Aug 27 Meeting with U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) will be conducting a road show throughout Vietnam from August 25-28 to meet with infrastructure project developers, Vietnamese government officials, U.S. private sector companies, and financiers. The discussions will center on the energy, environment, transportation, and ICT sectors and how to access USTDA grant funding to support infrastructure development in Vietnam. You are cordially invited to attend this outreach event to learn how USTDA grant funding can be leveraged to support your objectives..



Fri, Aug 28 Changes and updates in labour and wage policies (2015-16)

Continuing the series of professional seminars to support businesses and the HR practitioner community, help acquire better understanding, and share difficulties and concerns on legislation implementation, NVM Group will host a Government Dialogue about changes and updates in the wage and labor policies (valid from 2015-2016) presented by Mdm. Tong Thi Minh, Director-General of Department of Wage and Labor.



Fri~Sun, Sep18-20 AmCham Fall Weekend at Angsana Lang Co

Join other AmCham members and guests in AmCham's Fall Weekend, with Ambassador's Roundtable discussion of key issues in Vietnam-U.S. trade and investment, and outlook for 2016. Three days/two nights including room at special rates; buffet breakfasts; Fri Welcome Cocktail Reception; Sat Afternoon Roundtable with Ambassador, Consul General, and U.S. Mission Key Officers, followed by Evening Cocktails and Gala Dinner with scrumptious cuisine and fine wines, not to mention the breath-taking sunset over the bay. **REGISTER NOW** for this stimulating weekend, with optional activities including friendly golf, excursion, spa, and simple relaxation. Family-friendly, and children welcome. Click here for **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Sponsorship Opportunity - AmCham Scholarship 2015



The AmCham Scholarship, a distinguished CSR program from AmCham Vietnam to develop high quality human resources for member companies, will celebrate its 15th Anniversary in 2015. Since its beginning in 2001. AmCham has awarded scholarship to 628 students from 11 leading universities in Ho Chi Minh City. And this year, 50 Scholarships and 30 "Honorable Mentions" will be awarded to applicants selected by an extensive, three-month assessment process. You are welcome to visit us at the [Scholarship Mainpage](#) as well as the Sponsorship Opportunity available **HERE** or contact [AmCham Programs](#).



PRIZES needed for AmCham upcoming events: Fall Weekend, Members Night, Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot, Annual General Meeting, and Governors Ball

We are seeking PRIZES for our upcoming signature events in last quarter of 2015

- **Fall Weekend in Lang Co**, September 18-20
- **Members Night & Meet the US Consulate General**, October 15
- **Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament**, November 26
- **Annual General Meeting & Members Night**, December 9
- **Governors Ball**, December 12

Your support is highly appreciated and well-recognized before and during events. Prizes can be air tickets, hotel stay, dining vouchers, premium items, or any prizes or items that are convenient for you. If you interest, please contact **Ms. Lily Nguyen**, Events Manager for further details and discussion.



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 **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 six months. We encourage you to welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses. **New members in July:** Avaya, Hellmann Worldwide Logistics, Le & Tran Attorneys At Law, Wahl Clipper.



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: 600,000+ views/year, 300,000+ visitors/year plus 9.0k twitter followers, 6.5k facebook fans, 4.7k 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.



New Vendors:

Binh An Village Resort Dalat; Chanh Bistro, Chanh Services Company Limited, Chi Hoa Culture, El Gaucho, Grand Square Convention Centre & Restaurants, Hoang Yen Group, Hotel Royal Hoi An, Kokois, Le Terroir, M2C Bistro & Café, Princess D'An Nam Resort & Spa, Seventeen Saloon, Tandoor, The Earth Villa, Vietstar Resort & Spa, Phu Yen, Vinpearl Group, Vinpearl Premium Nha Trang Bay.

News and Issues Updates



TransPacific Partnership's impact on Vietnam's economy

Herb Cochran, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce Vietnam (AmCham Vietnam), tells the Vietnam Economic Times's Hoang Thu about the TPP's impact on Vietnam's economy. Vietnam accounted for 20% of U.S. imports from ASEAN in 2014 and could account for over 30% by 2020. Total trade between Vietnam and the U.S. could double from \$36 billion in 2014 to \$72 billion in 2020.



Crown Vietnam - New facility opens in Vietnam

We're pleased to announce that Crown Vietnam has opened a new facility in Da Nang. We're fully operational and are providing relocation and records management services to clients from our facility in Cam Le District, Da Nang. Our new office is located in the heart of Hoa Cam Industrial Park on the outskirts of Da Nang city, only 15 minutes away from the city center.



National Wage Council members discuss minimum wage 2016

This year the economy has improved but the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) proposed a minimum salary hike of around 10% and this is unacceptable, Mai Duc Chinh, vice chairman of the Vietnam General Confederation of Labor (VGCL), said before he walked out of the meeting.



VCCI defends proposed 10% limit on minimum wage hike

VCCI proposed 6 ~ 7%, and in an Aug 6 statement said that 10% is the highest level that enterprises could endure to ensure their survival and sustainable development. If the minimum wage is increased by 10% next year, enterprises costs will increase by 17-18% due to increased wages, insurance premiums and labor union fees for employees.



EU, Vietnam sign free trade agreement in principle

but more detailed negotiations of technical issues, final legal texts, translations and approval by the Council and European Parliament mean the agreement will not come into effect until late 2017 or early 2018, The EU-VN FTA will remove nearly all tariffs on trade and should "provide significant new opportunities for companies on both sides, by increasing market access for goods and services."



Secretary Kerry celebrates 20 years

since Vietnam and the United States normalized relations in July 1995. He met with the General Secretary, President, Foreign Minister, Education Minister, Fulbright University students. Young ASEAN Leaders and others on Fri, Aug 7 in Hanoi.

TPP Ministers may meet again in Aug or Nov to conclude agreement



How long might it take to wrap up the negotiations? Some predict a TPP signing ceremony in conjunction with the Nov. 18-19 meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) in the Philippines. Japanese Economy Minister Akira Amari has suggested that TPP ministers should meet again on the sidelines of the Aug. 22-25 meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers in Kuala Lumpur.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

FAQ: How to determine U.S. import duty rates

CBP makes the final determination of what the correct rate of duty is, not the importer. The **Harmonized Tariff System (HTS)** provides duty rates for virtually every item that exists. The HTS is a reference manual that is the size of an unabridged dictionary. Experts spend years learning how to properly classify an item in order to determine its correct duty rate.



FAQ: What is the potential impact of TPP on Vietnam's economy?

The most authoritative study was done by Professor Peter Petri of Brandeis University and the Peterson Institute. The Study will be updated as soon as the TPP has been finalised and made public, so that the exact terms will be known.



TPP: no deal in Hawaii, bilateral talks to be resumed

"The sad thing is, it's 98% concluded," Australia's trade minister, Andrew Robb, said as trade ministers prepared to leave on Friday. "While my first reaction was disappointment, I also realized that no deal meant that there wasn't yet a deal that could make it through the U.S. Congress," said a U.S. business stakeholder at the TPP negotiations in Hawaii.



Weekly Updates Archive 2006 - 2014

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.



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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