



## Party Congress in Jan, TET 2016, AmCham Scholarship; Governors' Ball Prizes, Photos

### FEATURES



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

Over 1,500 delegates will attend 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.



#### Chúc mừng năm mới ! TET Lunar New Year, Feb 6 - 14, 2015

Tet is traditionally celebrated from the fifteenth day of the twelfth lunar month to the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. The official holidays period is Feb 6 - 14. We wish you all health, happiness and prosperity in 2016, the Year of the Monkey!



#### New leaders in HCM City

The city council's deputies elected Nguyen Thanh Phong as Chairman of the HCMC People's Committee, replacing Le Hoang Quan, who retires after a nine-year stint in the city government. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has approved the election of Phong, deputy secretary of the HCMC Party Committee, as chairman of the city government. The Prime Minister has also endorsed Le Van Khoa and Nguyen Thi Thu as vice chairpersons of the HCMC People's Committee as elected by the municipal People's Council at its meeting on December 11.



#### Winners of 20th AmCham Governors' Ball Raffle Prizes, Silent Auction

... listed on the AmCham web site. Click the above link to see the list of winners.

*Please bring your winning raffle ticket to AmCham office to claim your prize by DECEMBER 31, 2015. Unclaimed prizes after claim period expires will be used for other AmCham events.*



#### AmCham Scholarship 2015 - List of Scholars, Photos, News Videos

The 15th Annual AmCham Scholarship Awards, with scholarships to third year and above students at universities in HCM City. Since 2001, we have awarded 705 scholarships. Many of the AmCham Scholars are now with AmCham companies. More than 120 of them have received post graduate degrees, both Master's (62) and Ph.D. (60).

#### AmCham Scholarship 2015 - 15th Anniversary



Highlights of the AmCham Scholarship 2001 - 2015 on YouTube video.



## Photo Albums - 20th AmCham Governors' Ball & 3rd AmCham Breakfast with Santa

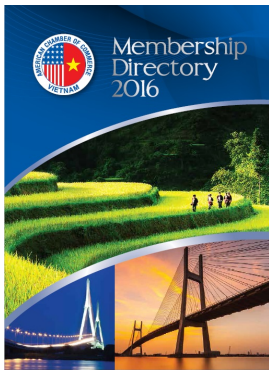
... posted on the AmCham web site. Click the above links to see photos taken during these two events.



## 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

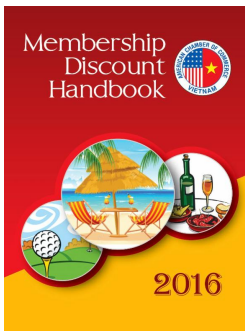


## RENEW your Membership & update your company profile in 2016 AmCham Membership Directory - published in April 2016

AmCham is pleased to invite you to renew your membership in 2016 and update your company profile for printing in the 2016 AmCham Membership Directory.

As you plan your marketing activities, be sure to consider our **2016 AmCham Membership Directory**. Click [HERE](#) for Publication's features and Advertising Rates.

*Do not miss this unique chance to have your brand/ products/ services posted free of charge in one of the top foreign business association websites in Vietnam.*



## 2016 AmCham Discount Program

We are now working on the **2016 AmCham Discount Program**, if you would like to promote your BRAND widely to all members, join the program by contacting **Ms. Sam Hoang**

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.

*(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](#))*



## Cau Tre Export Goods Processing Joint Stock Company (CTEJSCO): Limited Time Offer for the newest products in the market (only for AmCham members)!

From now through December 31st, 2015, Cau Tre offers the most special deal for our most beloved AmCham members. When order via hotline 0909 71 8400 or (08) 3961 8400 with the minimum total of 100,000 VND, you can receive free delivery PLUS:

- 30% off all Ready Meal products. Please see the catalogue here: <http://goo.gl/GRvC39>

- 20% off all Tea products. Please see the catalogue here: <http://goo.gl/nCZ2cy>

Conditions: Apply in HCMC, Hanoi, Da Nang, Binh Duong and Tay Ninh Province

## Months of the Awards

Together with outstanding success in our business during the past few months, CCBVL has



continuously honored by prestigious awards in CSR and HR in this December



### Book Your Year End Party at Duxton Hotel Saigon

Price from VND 550,000++ per person.  
FREE dinner voucher, MCMC  
November 2015 - February 2016  
Price is subject to 5% service charge & 10% VAT



### Have a Joyful Christmas and New Year at Eastin Grand Hotel Saigon

It's time to welcome the year ahead with celebration and cheer. Spread the joy of this occasion among your loved ones and treat them to the traditional festive culinary delights to remember. An array of Christmas and New Year temptations that you don't want to miss!



### 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 six months. We encourage you to get to know and welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses. **New members in Nov & Dec: 105 Construction JSC., Former Fed LLC, Estee Lauder (Vietnam) LLC, KKR Singapore, L&E International Paper Packaging Company Limited.**



### AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

**AIM, Santa Fe Relocations, and United Airlines & ANA have recently joined AmCham Corporate Partnership as Bronze Sponsors. Thank you all for your support.**

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): 600K+ views/year (70K+ in Oct 2015), 270K+ visitors/year (28K+ in Oct 2015) ... and 9.3K twitter followers, 7.4K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.0k 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



### Season's Greetings \* Happy New Year

As the year 2015 draws to a close, we sincerely thank AmCham companies, members, and business associations and government partners for their friendship and cooperation during the year in our efforts to help make Vietnam the best business and investment destination in Southeast Asia. We wish you all health, happiness and prosperity in 2016, the Year of the Monkey!



### U.S. Trade Advisory Groups reports on TPP

Mostly good marks in 27 reports released by various government advisory committees representing business, agriculture and labor interests. But, as expected, representatives of labor groups, tobacco growers, auto companies and pharmaceutical firms registered their dissenting opinions on the final deal.



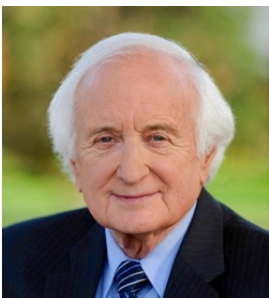
### ITC Public Hearing Jan 13; Comments due Dec 18; Report on May 18

Following receipt on Nov 5, 2015 of a request from the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the U.S. International Trade Commission has instituted an investigation: "Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sectors," under section 105(c) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, for the purpose of assessing the likely impact of the Agreement on the U.S. economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors and the interests of U.S. consumers.



### Businesses move slowly on TPP

A major business group, the New York-based United States Council for International Business, urged Congress to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but also called on the administration to fix problems with the pact before sending it to Capitol Hill. Other groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, and Business Roundtable, haven't yet commented. One action-forcing event might be the Dec 18 deadline for the public to submit comments for the U.S. International Trade Commission's study of the agreement.



### Trading Views: Debates on key issues in the TPP

"The 90-day period was established to facilitate an intensive and informed debate over the merits of TPP as negotiated, as well as the necessity for any modifications to the agreement, before the agreement is signed," said Rep. Levin. As part of that engagement, we are organizing a series of in-depth public hearings to assess the merits of the proposed agreement, zeroing in on those issues that are of particular importance or concern to us and our fellow Democratic colleagues. These sessions will help to build a full foundation of information and transparency before Congress votes on the agreement." The first debates focused on environmental, investment (including tobacco), and access to medicines.

### Letter: 90-day notice of intention to enter into the TPP Agreement

"Consistent with Section 6(a)(1)(A) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-26, Title I; the "Trade Priorities Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intention to enter into a free trade agreement, known as the Trans-



Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement."



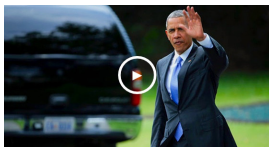
## TPP Entry into Force - Article 30.5

"This Agreement shall enter into force 60 days after the date on which all original signatories have notified ... in writing of the completion of their applicable legal procedures. In the event that not all original signatories have notified ... within a period of two years ..., it shall enter into force 60 days after the expiry of this period if at least six of the original signatories, which together account for at least 85 per cent of the combined gross domestic product of the original signatories in 2013, have notified ... "



## Vietnam's 2015 Minimum Wage Adjustment Announced

Vietnam's Minimum Wage Adjustment for 2016 is about 12.4%, and will go into effect on Jan 1, 2016. The adjustment is twice the level of forecast 2016 GDP growth (6.2%), three times CPI inflation (1.8% in 2015 and 4% in 2016), and four times average annual productivity growth (3.3%). On the other hand, it is lower than increases in the past four years: 2012 (29%), 2013 (17.5%), 2014 (15%), 2015 (15.1%). For the second year in a row, the adjustment is within 1% of our trend line estimate.



## TPP to be submitted to U.S. Congress in first half of 2016?

"I expect that, after the American people and Congress have an opportunity for months of careful review and consultation, Congress will approve it, and I'll have the chance to sign it into law," Obama said in an op-ed posted. Administration officials have indicated they would consult closely with congressional leaders on the exact timing of a vote. But they have begun taking steps that could clear the way for action in the first half of 2016.



## Senate Majority Leader: TPP vote shouldn't come before U.S. elections

"It certainly shouldn't come before the election, and I have some serious problems with what I think it is," Senator McConnell was quoted as saying in an interview with The Washington Post. McConnell, who strongly supported Trade Promotion Authority legislation, signaled that he was undecided on how he would vote on the TPPI, but he was clear that the TPP would not pass if it were sent to Congress next spring or summer, as the administration was planning.



## 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. 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.

## 2015 CORPORATE PARTNERS

DIAMOND



SILVER



BRONZE



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