



Mekong Delta suffering worst drought in nearly a century; TPP trade opportunities

FEATURES



Vietnam suffering worst drought in almost a century

A crippling drought in Vietnam threatens to create a shortage of food and water for two million people. Vietnam is going through its worst drought in almost a century amid intense and prolonged El Nino conditions. Low water levels in the Mekong River have caused seawater to flow 90 kilometers into the basin, the furthest recorded in history.



Drought killing Vietnam rice crops compounds Mekong water crisis

The dry spell in the once-fertile Mekong Delta is devastating food supplies in southern Vietnam and threatening to reduce global exports of rice, seafood and coffee. It is also compounding a Southeast Asia water shortage along a 3,000-mile river that runs from Tibet to Thailand to the East Sea [South China Sea], as climate change and too many dams [in China and Laos] erode livelihoods for millions of farmers in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.



Half of Vietnam's rice exports go to China

Vietnamese enterprises shipped more than four out of 8.3 million tons of rice for export last year to China via formal [1.98 million tons] and informal [2.02 million tons] channels. Meanwhile, data of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) indicated more than 30% [1.98 million tons] of the 6.6 million tons of rice shipped abroad through official channels last year went to the world's most populous country. [so 2.02 million tons went through informal channels]."



New rule-based order needed to save the Mekong

As Vietnam suffers its worst drought in nearly a century, debates have been reignited over the mega dams built along the Mekong. The Vietnamese part of the Mekong Delta, the Cuu Long region, accounts for 33% of Vietnam's agricultural sector and 90% of its rice exports, half of which go to China.



TPP Trade Opportunities from the U.S.

The TPP will create great opportunities for trade by eliminating more than 18,000 tariffs on U.S.-made products sold overseas and establishing the highest standards on labor, the environment, and the digital economy ever to be included in a trade agreement. The agreement's impact on trade between the U.S. and the five TPP countries with which the United States does not yet have a Free Trade Agreement will be particularly profound. These include large, well-established markets like Japan, where U.S. companies exported \$66.8 billion in goods, and growing markets like Malaysia and Vietnam, where U.S. goods exports totaled \$13 billion and \$5.7 billion in 2014, respectively.



A Romantic Getaway For Vietnam Residents To 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. Indulge in an exquisite Destination Dining experience, rejuvenate with a couple spa treatment and let love blossom.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



Tickets sold very fast last year so purchase to tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Click [HERE](#) for Event Schedule, Sponsorship Opportunities, and Ticket Booking



The Internal Auditor - Dealing with Fraud - 18 May in Hanoi, 20 May in HCMC

Participants will develop an understanding of their responsibilities in the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud. Participants will become familiar with the signs or information that warrants their additional attention, they will develop an awareness of techniques to enhance fraud detection, and understand the appropriate audit work and documentation required to substantiate audit findings, allowing them to substantiate and report their findings with clarity. This course will have a very practical focus and will include case studies.



Attractive Early Bird Deals to U.S. from HCM 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.



May 11 BBGV Breakfast Seminar: Strengths & Weaknesses of Vietnamese: Management & Leadership

Seminar will cover:

- Real strengths & weaknesses of Vietnamese Managers & Leaders from industry practitioners and business leaders.
- Leadership competencies and behaviors that matter and why they matter
- The results of an empirical study of 100+ Managers & Leaders in Vietnam and 1000+ respondents and their top strengths and weaknesses.



May 12 CBRE Private View Of Vinhomes Golden River

Vinhomes Golden River is a riverside eco-urban residential complex developed by Vingroup. Constructed on the Ba Son grounds along Saigon River, in the heart of District 1, the project is seamlessly connected to neighboring areas through the Metro line 1 (Ben Thanh - Suoi Tien) and the Ba Son station. As one of the first developments of the "city within a city" concept, Vinhomes Golden River will create an integrated lifestyle, cultured community with comprehensive infrastructure and a wide range of facilities for residents at their doorstep. **Contact us @ hotline 0919 686 737 or email residentialsales.vietnam@cbre.com for more information.**



May 25 AmCham Palooza Party at Hard Rock Cafe

The monthly Palooza Party is a platform to develop new friendships, networking opportunities and information exchange. Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring your business cards!



Jun 04 Green Bike 2016

In response to World Environmental Day, AmCham, in partnership with Intel and World Wildlife Fund - environmental partner - co-host a Green Bike on Saturday, June 4 at District 7, HCM City. The theme is "Act now to change climate change." The bike ride focuses on raising awareness of protecting the environment as well as preventing climate change.



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**.



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 members in Mar & Apr 2016:

ADEN Services, AVIS Vietnam, Bach Khoa Investment and Development of Solar Energy Corp., French-Vietnamese Center for Management Education (CFVG), Green Speed, Honeywell, Hotel Nikko Saigon, I am Dream Catcher Ltd., Larion Computing, Manpower, McLarty Associates, Minh Hoang Garment Co., Ltd., Officience, Rentokil Initial Vietnam, Scanwell Logistics, Sunflower Media, Supply Chain Services International, Terralogic, TIRO Consulting Services, VVCorp Corporation



JOIN US: Become a Member of AmCham Vietnam - HCMC

***NEW OFFER: Application fee will be waived for companies having a D-U-N-S® number.**

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.



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 9.9K twitter followers, 8.0K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.4k 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



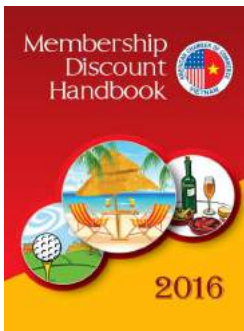
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to COCA-COLA and TRUONG PHAT JVC for re-joining our 2016 Program

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](#))

News and Issues



New YKVN Partners, Of Counsel And Counsels

YKVN is announcing the promotion of 2 new partners and 5 counsels. The new partners and counsels come from all three offices of the Firm (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore) and all principal areas of the Firm's practice: corporate, banking and dispute resolution.

In addition, YKVN is also announcing four new senior arrivals. One of counsel expands significantly the Firm's international arbitration capabilities while a counsel will spearhead the Firm's expansion into shipping and be a key player in YKVN's international arbitration practice. The other two counsels are YKVN alumni whose return will strengthen and expand further the Firm's preeminent M&A and capital markets practice.



U.S. to focus on implementing commitments in TPP, especially labor

Looking ahead, we are already working with our TPP partners on implementation and monitoring and enforcement mechanisms," Froman said. "So we've had teams go out to our TPP partners over the course of the last several weeks to talk through what it is they can do to bring their systems into compliance with TPP obligations."



Fish Inspection transferred from U.S. FDA to USDA

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has completed the transfer of the domestic and import inspection program for siluriformes fish and fish products to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Siluriformes fish include fish commonly known as "catfish." The primary inspection responsibility was transferred to FSIS on March 1, 2016 for domestic producers and on April 15, 2016 for importers. FSIS is already working with firms associated with these types of fish and fish products.



U.S. FDA cracks down on imports of shrimp from Malaysia

The FDA announced that its District Offices may detain, without physical examination, imports of shrimp and prawns from peninsular Malaysia due to testing that found that approximately one-third of imports from peninsular Malaysia contained residues of nitrofurans and/or chloramphenicol.



U.S. House Ways & Means Committee Chairman on TPP

Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas) said he would like Congress to consider an expansive Pacific Rim trade deal if lingering issues can be resolved. "If the White House can solve the problems, and there's about four or five key ones left - if they can solve those problems and build support, I'd like to see this move sooner rather than later," Brady said. "But the substance and the support's going to drive it. That will drive the timing."



New Maritime Security Initiative for Southeast Asia

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has submitted a notification to Congress as it prepares to roll out a new maritime capacity-building initiative for Southeast Asian states near the South China Sea. With that notification, the United States will soon begin implementing the so-called Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative (MSI) which was initially announced in June 2015. ...



China's Okinotori Position Reveals a UNCLOS Double Standard

"Okinotori is an isolated rock in the West Pacific far away from the homeland of Japan. As prescribed in the UNCLOS, rocks like Okinotori which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own shall have no exclusive economic zone nor continental shelf. In April, 2012, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf gave its recommendations in regard to the submission made by Japan on the limits of its outer continental shelf, not recognizing Japan's claim of an outer continental shelf based on Okinotori. Japan has violated the UNCLOS by categorizing Okinotori as "island" for the purpose of claiming for EEZ and continental shelf based on that. China does not recognize the illegal assertion by Japan." Hua Chunying, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry.



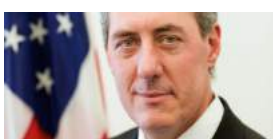
Prime Minister's meeting with the business community

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc pledged to create a level playing field for enterprises from all economic sectors given the business community's concerns over discrimination between the State and private sectors.



Customs: 1,000 containers abandoned at Hai Phong port

Nearly 1,000 containers have been left at the port for months, the majority for up to 4 years, causing billions of dong in inventory management, transportation, storage and pollution.



USTR: changes to existing U.S. law required to comply with TPP

The U.S. Trade Representative's office published a description of changes to existing U.S. laws required to comply with the rules of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The one-page document, which is required by the trade promotion authority law, includes only one entirely new legal change under the trade pact, which will require that a customs fee - the merchandise processing fee - not be levied on an ad valorem basis.



U.S., China sign MOU to end China's export subsidies

The agreement is a step by Beijing to reduce trade frictions with the United States that range from steel and agricultural products to technology and banking. The Obama administration has sought to boost enforcement of alleged trade violations in part to rally support for new trade agreements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership.



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.



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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