



Vietnam's TPP Ratification Plan, 2017 Minimum Wage, Members' Night, Food Safety

FEATURES



Vietnam's process of TPP ratification and implementation legislation

After the April Monthly Government [Cabinet] Meeting, Resolution 33/NQ-CP, May 9, 2016, para. 4 explained Vietnam's process of TPP ratification and implementation legislation, which could take up to two years from the Feb 4, 2016 signing date. There will be a proposal for an omnibus TPP implementation bill, "... reported to the Government [Cabinet] at the regular meeting in December 2016. The Prime Minister signs the Proposal before submitting to the President to consider and decide the submission of the Proposal to the National Assembly" for review, consideration, and ratification.



Vietnam's 2017 Minimum Wage Proposal

The proposed Minimum Wage Adjustment for 2017, the fourth since the establishment of the National Wage Council under the revised Labour Code of 2012, is an average increase of 7.3%, down from 12.4% in 2016. It will be submitted to the Government for discussion and approval at the next regular meeting, scheduled for September, and go into effect on Jan 1, 2017.



Vietnam looks to revise apparel sector strategy for more growth with TPP

Vietnam's export value for textiles and apparel was targeted to hit \$20 billion by 2020, but exports already surpassed \$27 billion in 2015 and are expected to reach \$31 billion by the end of 2016. Between 2010 and 2015, growth in the garment sector has been up 15 percent per year.



Think You Bought Red Snapper? Don't Be So Sure

When the environmental group Oceana conducted a large study of the issue three years ago, the results were shocking. Scientists performed DNA tests on more than 1,200 samples from nearly 700 different stores and restaurants in 21 states. One out of three fish were mislabeled, in violation of Food and Drug Administration regulations, and the numbers were even worse in big cities such as New York, Los Angeles and Boston.



A desirable event of the year for business leaders

The Award Ceremony of Vietnam HR Awards will be held on 28 Sept, promising to highlight stories of business strategy and people management, the insightful dialogue from CEOs from top companies and MNCs in Vietnam. Vietnam HR Awards was initiated to honor the organizations with best HR strategies and practices. First launched in 2014, the awards have resonated in Vietnam market for its methodology, which is applied from the largest Singapore HR awards. Register at: www.vietnamhrawards.com



An additional ANA flight HCMC-Tokyo from October 30

ANA, a Joint Venture partner with United Airlines, will add a second departure from HCMC to Tokyo's Narita airport on October 30, 2016. This new flight will leave HCMC at 7:30AM and arrive at Narita at 3:15PM. With these timings, customers can connect to 10 destinations non-stop in the United States either on ANA or United. With this flight the ANA/United Joint Venture offers more United States destinations than any other airline serving HCMC.



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 awardwinning cuisine of Korean and Western meals and state-of-the-art inflight entertainment system provide passengers ultimate satisfaction.



Sep 21 Members' Night and Meet Consulate General Key Officers

AmCham invites you to attend a Members' Night, with cocktails and buffet reception. Members' spouses and guests are not only invited but also encouraged to attend. Welcome by AmCham Board Member, and introduction of new Consul General Mary Tarnowka and Key Officers from the U.S. Consulate General. The cocktail reception will offer networking opportunities for one-on-one conversations with the Consulate General Team, AmCham Governors, fellow members, and especially meet new members.



Sep 22 If You Were Under Cyber-Attack, Would You Ever Know

This seminar provides insights of information security and lessons learned from various real-case security projects of Ernst & Young Vietnam Limited. It also enables participants to discover the most vulnerable points in their devices / IT systems as well as find out how to defend the systems.



Sep 23-25 AmCham Weekend @ The Grand Ho Tram Strip

Each year, members of the AmCham chapters in Hanoi and HCMC meet for a casual weekend of networking, policy discussions, golf, food and fun. AmCham's Networking Weekend brings together our members and US government representatives, including the Ambassador and Consul General, to discuss the most pressing issues facing our business community in Vietnam.



Sep 27 Vietnam Buyers Training 2016

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with Health Canada (HC) and AmCham, will conduct a training seminar for Buyers & Sourcing Professionals. The focus of this one-day, FREE training event will be on products for children and products that have demonstrated high risks of safety violations and hazards such as textiles/apparel, furniture and toys. If your organization employs or is associated with a purchasing professional that buys products to be sold in the United States and/or Canada, this seminar is for you!



Sep 28 AmCham Palooza Party

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. Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring your business cards!



Oct 27 Morning Briefing with Q&A: Visa Procedures for Business Travel to the U.S.

In response to a number of AmCham companies, AmCham has arranged this workshop to provide an update on U.S. visitor visa application procedures, visa renewal procedures, and procedures for group visits (incentive tours, etc.).



Nov 12 The 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball

It is that time of year again, the Marines are preparing for the 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The Marines of the Marine Security Guard Detachment Ho Chi Minh City would like to invite you to attend our celebration on 12 November 2016 from 6pm till midnight at The Reverie Saigon, 22-36 Nguyen Hue Boulevard, Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam. Tickets can be purchased at AmCham office; Do not wait, since there are a limited number of seats. We hope to see you there! *Semper Fi*



Nov 14 TPP Workshop in Vietnam

With the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) covering 40 percent of the world's GDP and reaching approximately 800 million consumers, this historic trade agreement represents significant opportunities for the apparel, footwear, and accessories industries. TPP will enable companies to reduce costs, stay competitive, and enter new markets. TPP is full of technicalities that can cost you hundreds of millions if you don't understand and know how to apply the specifics.



Nov 15 International Product Safety and Compliance Conference

Product safety, responsible sourcing, compliance, and transparency are the backbone of successful and respected supply chains. AAFA brings together industry leaders to educate factories and suppliers in Vietnam on the critical components of manufacturing and delivering products that meet global regulations, industry compliance, and consumer demand. The conference will be presented in English with simultaneous interpretation into Vietnamese.



Nov 24 16th Annual AmCham Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament and Lunch

This fun day of golf is open to all AmCham Members and their guests! You can sign-up individually or with others members or friends and even make your own foursome. Non-Members are welcome to join as long as they are playing with at least one AmCham Member. This Thanksgiving Day golf event will kick off at Vietnam Golf & Country Club with an 8:00am Shotgun. There lots of prizes for all to win, a commemorative golf cap for each participant. Products of Coca-Cola, Pepsi, and Budweiser beer will be served throughout the day and our awards ceremony will feature a bountiful Roast Turkey spread for everyone to enjoy. Join us for a fun day out on the course!!



Dec 13 22nd Annual Meeting and Members' Night

In accordance with Article IV of the AmCham Charter, the Annual General Meeting of the Ho Chi Minh City Chapter will be held on Tue, Dec 13, beginning at 6:00pm, followed by a reception for the General Membership. We will conduct the following important business: (1) Report of the Chapter's Board of Governors on Activities in 2015; (2) Report of the previous years' accounts; (3) election to the Board of Governors (by secure online voting between on or about Nov 7 and Dec 13).



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 August and September 2016:

Amanoi; DTK Logistics Solutions, Groupe SEB Vietnam / Vietnam Fan JSC; Minh Pham Brothers Corporation; New Image Vietnam Co., Ltd.; QL International Education & Training Development Co., Ltd.; Ricons Construction Investment JSC; Sealed Air Diversey Care



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 **10.6K twitter followers**, 8.9K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.6k 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

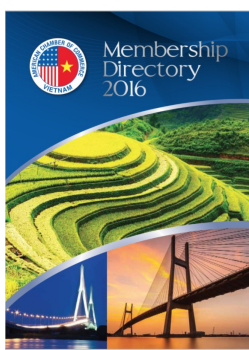
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

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](#).



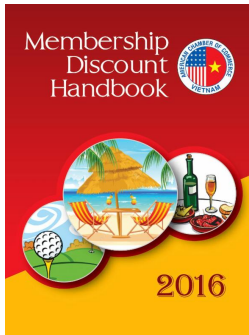


2017 AmCham Membership Directory

To help you prepare your marketing plan budget next year, please find our Advertising Rates for the **2017 Membership Directory**.

- Circulation: 1,700 copies, approx 440 pages, dimensions: 19cm x 26cm.
- Perfect bind, soft laminated cover
- Published date: April 2017

We offer **FREE ADVERTISEMENT** on www.amchamvietnam.com for any booking and payment made before December 15, 2016. Contact [Cindy Tran](#) for more details and booking.



2017 AmCham Discount Program

The AmCham Discount Program is a mutually beneficial opportunity for both Discount Partners and AmCham Members who are representatives of high profile companies doing business and living in Vietnam.

By offering AmCham Members special discounts on services or products, Discount Partners can enjoy marketing opportunities through listing freely and/or placing an advertisement on the [Discount Handbook & Online](#).

We are preparing for AmCham Discount Handbook 2017 which will be published and sent to Members in early January, please find out Advertising Rates at [AD Handbook](#) / [AD Online](#). Contact Ms. Sam Hoang now for more details and booking.

Please contact [Ms. Sam Hoang](#) for full information.

News and Issues



TPP is coming: [Draft] Statement of Administrative Action submitted to Congress

The White House put Congress on notice that it will be sending lawmakers a bill to implement the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement - a move intended to infuse new energy into efforts to ratify the trade pact.



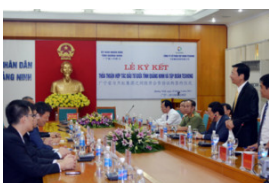
TPP Agreement Implementation Act and [Draft] Statement of Administrative Action

This Statement of Administrative Action is submitted to the Congress in compliance with section 106 (a)(1)(E)(ii) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 ("Trade Priorities Act") and accompanies the implementing bill for the free trade agreement, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. The bill approves and makes statutory changes strictly necessary or appropriate to implement the Agreement.



Food Safety: TraceVerified provides traceability for food products

Dr. Nguyen Thi Hong Minh is perhaps one of the most interesting and qualified foodtech entrepreneurs you'll meet in Vietnam. A seafood processing engineer by trade, she got her PhD in political economy and was eventually appointed as the Deputy Minister of Fisheries to head up food safety and fishery exports in Vietnam.



Textile giant Texhong is charging ahead in Vietnam, despite TPP uncertainties

For Texhong Textile Group, even as uncertainty looms over the free trade pact, the company is firmly committed to further expansion in its southern neighbor. Texhong, one of the world's largest yarn suppliers, has been aggressively building up production capabilities in TPP signatory Vietnam. Founder and Chairman Hong Tianzhu has said one of the main intentions of investing there is to deal with the trade agreement. But even

without the TPP, the competitiveness of the Vietnam operation "is very strong, among all Southeast Asian nations and even compared to Chinese production bases."



Administration readies one last push for TPP in lame duck session

Although the administration's push will begin in September, no vote will occur until after the Nov 8 elections. Just as the White House Democrats and congressional Republicans mostly agree on the economic benefits of trade, they have parallel political interests in delaying debate. Republicans do not want to provoke attacks from their presidential nominee, Donald J. Trump or hurt other Republican candidates. Mr. Obama does not want to make trouble for the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, who has struggled to persuade voters of her sincerity in switching from support of the pact to opposition.



"Country-specific implementation plans ... to develop political support for TPP" - Senator Hatch

"It is essential that the Obama administration work to reach country-specific plans identifying the changes that our trading partners must and will make to their laws, regulations, and practices in order to meet their key TPP obligations. These country-specific implementation commitments would provide a valuable tool for resolving shortcomings and ambiguities in the agreement, while helping to build confidence in the Congress that TPP will be implemented fully and faithfully by our trading partners.



Pokémon Whoa: Reality Game App Creates Unprecedented Risks for Employers

Catch 'em all! Pokémon Go is a mobile game that uses "augmented" reality to create a virtual scavenger hunt. In the quest to catch 'em all, over 15 million people have downloaded the Pokémon Go game since its recent release. Employers have grappled with employees' personal use of electronic devices during work hours since gaming fads such as Candy Crush and Draw Something were released. However, beyond creating a simple distraction in the workplace, the explosion of Pokémon Go subjects employers to potentially costly risks, including worker safety issues, lost productivity, data breach possibilities, and misuse of company resources.



TPP Prospects in the U.S. Congress Lame Duck Session

"Everything in Washington is impossible until it is inevitable," Ambassador Froman said. But House Speaker Paul Ryan said on Aug 4 that TPP won't get a vote in Congress this year because there isn't enough support. He said there is no point in bringing up the TPP after the November elections because he doesn't see how the Obama administration can build enough support for the agreement. Nevertheless, the Administration is making a "whole of government" effort to pass the TPP this year



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

CBP offers classification and valuation assistance program to U.S. exporters

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will provide technical assistance to help U.S. exporters resolve issues involving tariff classification and customs valuation treatment by other customs administrations. There have been cases where, through erroneous or inappropriate application of customs valuation principles or misinterpretation of classification rules by customs services in countries of import of U.S. exports, such actions have acted as non-tariff trade barriers to U.S. goods. These have often given rise to serious disputes and costly appeals. Under the new CBP program, technical assistance may be provided in appropriate cases by CBP's Office of Regulations and Rulings through review of the technical issues and, if appropriate, bilateral consultations with the customs administration involved.



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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