



## PM approves NCTF; Expat Explorer; Global Product Safety Conference,

### FEATURES



#### Prime Minister approves National Committee on Trade Facilitation

On Oct 4, 2016. The NCTF, based on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Art. 23.2, will facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the TFA. The establishment of the NCTF, conclusion of a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement between Vietnam and U.S. customs authorities, and establishment of meaningful public-private consultations regarding import/export procedures in Vietnam have been the top priorities of the Vietnam Trade Facilitation Alliance, a partnership between USAID, VCCI, and AmCham.



#### Prime Minister approves Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation

Plan on Oct 13, under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister Vương Đình Huệ. With the WTO TFA expected to enter into effect soon, the plan includes Working Groups for TFA commitments, including transparency, fees and procedures, freedom of transit, customs cooperation and mutual assistance, special and differential treatment, institutional arrangements, etc. When implemented, the Trade Facilitation Agreement will reduce Vietnam's trade costs by 20%, according to a WTO report.



#### Expat Explorer: Vietnam ranks 2nd in ASEAN and 19th out of 45 globally for expats

Expat Explorer, now in its ninth year, is the largest and one of the longest running surveys of expats, with 26,871 respondents sharing their views on life abroad including careers, financial wellbeing, quality of life and ease of settling for children. Vietnam ranks second, after Singapore, among six rated ASEAN countries and nineteenth globally of 45 in overall league table.



#### Sir Nick Faldo Returns to Host the 2nd Laguna Golf Classic 2016

Golf legend and Laguna Golf brand ambassador Sir Nick Faldo will host the Laguna Golf Classic 2016 tournament for the second year from 10 to 13 November 2016 at Laguna Golf Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam. Programmed activities promise to deliver unforgettable experiences at one of the regions' best courses as well as exclusive Laguna Lifestyle events. Participants will be treated to a welcome beach cocktail party upon arrival, two breakfast golf clinics hosted by Sir Nick, one 18-hole Swing for Community team competition and an outdoor dinner with Faldo Auction, an official golf tournament followed by gala awards dinner with an exquisite "The Journey of Ao Dai" (Vietnamese national costume) fashion show.

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.



## Advanced Purchase Promotion to North America 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.



## Oktoberfest Vietnam 2016 at Windsor Plaza Hotel

Oktoberfest Vietnam has been held in Windsor Plaza Hotel since 2005 and was recognized by Reuters and Chicago Tribune as one of the largest Oktoberfest celebrations in Southeast Asia with more than 10,000 attendants per year. Oktoberfest Vietnam 2016 truly captures the authentic atmosphere of the traditional Oktoberfest with guests wear traditional Bavarian attire while dancing to favorite Oktoberfest songs. Throughout the event, there is a expansive buffet of traditional German specialties including sausage, sauerkraut, crispy pork knuckle, pretzels and much more. In addition, guests can indulge with freeflow imported German beer including Krombacher pils and Schneider Weisse. Partake in delightful activities and stand a chance to win biggest valuable prizes from the nightly lucky draw.



## Big gap between Local companies and MNCs remained for compensation and benefits

With resourceful remuneration data of 244,500 employees from 557 MNCs and local organizations, Talentnet - Mercer salary survey report continues to be the largest and the most comprehensive salary report in Vietnam. The report provides insightful analysis about salary increase rates, common allowances, bonuses, typical benefits by industry and level, as well as other information such as employee turnover rates, the toughest jobs to fill in 2016, difference in salary and bonus between Local companies and MNCs.

## Oct 20 Strength Based Leadership Development



Join us in this seminar to gain the following value: Providing you research evidence in effective leadership development and measurement; Understanding how to develop leadership based on one's strength; Raising the overall performance of the organization with leadership; Discussing with Dr Joseph Folkman, a behavioral statistician, who has built and administered more than 500,000 360-degree assessments on some 50,000 leaders across the globe. His research has appeared in publications including The Wall Street Journal's National Business Employment Weekly, CNN, Fox News, Harvard Business Review, CBS News, Training and Development Magazine and Chief Learning Officer.



## Oct 20 Investment Conference 2016: Wealth Through Consumption @ GEM Center, HCMC

In order to help business leaders understand the fundamentals of the consumer economy and its impact on business strategies, the 9th Annual Investment Conference of Nhip Cau Dau Tu Magazine will discuss this key topic, "Wealth Through Consumption", for the first time ever.



## Oct 26 AmCham Supplier Day 2016

Following the success of Supplier Day 2014 and Supplier Day 2015, AmCham Vietnam and the Manufacturing Committee is organizing the 3rd Annual Supplier Day on October 26, 2016, to support our manufacturing members and to expand the list of qualified local suppliers in Vietnam. The event this year expects to have 200 participations of registered manufacturers and suppliers and the support from other Chambers of Commerce, Business associations, Industrial Parks and other local organizations.



## Oct 26 Suppliers & Manufacturers Networking Night

Following the success of Supplier Day 2014 and Supplier Day 2015, AmCham Vietnam and the Manufacturing Committee are organizing the 3rd Annual Supplier Day on October 26, 2016, to support our manufacturing members and to expand the list of qualified local suppliers in Vietnam. We would like to invite you to the Networking Night with Manufacturers and Suppliers after matching session. You will join the wrap-up meeting and the Supplier Day Management Team will briefly report the result of matching meeting between Manufacturers and Suppliers. After that you can meet and network with all of them and hear more about their experience at matching meetings.



## 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.).



## Oct 27 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!

**Dress code:** Business Casual



## 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. 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% 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 Global 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 10 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball - A Southern Christmas

The AmCham Board of Governors cordially invites you to the 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball, this year to be held on Saturday, December 10, 2016, from 6:30 pm. Our theme is A Southern Christmas. This year's holiday fête will feature unsurpassed gourmet fare, currently under creation by the InterContinental's new chef, diverse and first-class musical entertainment, and, of course, the usual abundance of holiday fellowship and cheer.



## 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](http://www.amchamvietnam.com): 646K views/yr; 275K visitors/yr (avg. 54K / 23K visitors/views per month) and **10.7K twitter followers**, 9.0K 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](http://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



### In Memorium: Peter W. Sognefest, 1941 - 2016

Peter W. Sognefest, 75, passed away on August 20, 2016 at his residence in Las Vegas, NV. He was born on February 4, 1941 in Melrose Park, Illinois, USA, and graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which later honored him with two awards: the "Distinguished Alumni Award" from the Electrical Engineering Department in 1989 and the "Professional Service and Achievement Award" from the College of Engineering in 1994. He was also awarded the annual Marcia Peterman ECE Alumni at the 1998/1999 banquet. Peter was active in AmCham Vietnam/HCMC for more than a decade, and joined the Board of Governors in early 2016.



### TPP would help small and medium exporters

98% of U.S. exporters are actually small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and

these smaller traders account for over one-third of U.S. exports. SMEs that export are also economic powerhouses. They hire more employees, pay higher wages, and are more resilient and productive than their non-exporting counterparts. TPP offers significant untapped potential to drive growth and support good jobs by increasing small business trade.



### Customs checks unimproved, delays, high costs

The reforms in Vietnam's management procedures and control have not yet seen significant changes, according to the findings of the American government's USAID Governance for Inclusive Growth (GIG) program. Specialised management of import goods was a major obstacle, which creates extra costs and time loss for enterprises, Nguyễn Đình Cung, CIEM head, was reported as saying by [chinhphu.vn](http://chinhphu.vn).



### Smart traffic system proposed for HCM City

Shawn Smith, president of Vigilant Solutions, proposed a smart transportation system with a network of 12,000 fixed and mobile cameras installed around the city. San Francisco, which uses the system, has recorded an average of 5,600 cases of traffic violations each day, helping the city collect \$2.8 million in fines. The project would be funded with US\$300 million borrowed from investment bank Morgan Stanley.



### Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer on TPP vote in lame duck session

Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer skirted a question about how he would vote on TPP, should it come to the floor this fall, by simply saying that it would not. "It's not going to come to a vote."



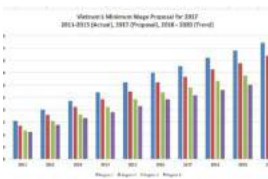
### Korea's Hyosung Group to make Vietnam its global production base

Hyosung has invested about US\$1.2 billion near HCMC since 2007 to establish its main production base for global markets. The firm employs about 6,000 Vietnamese workers and accounts for some 0.7% Vietnam's yearly export amount.



### Senator Hatch: TPP can get done in the lame duck session

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said Wednesday that Congress will pass a sweeping Asia-Pacific trade agreement before the end of the year, according to a report. "I think we're going to get it done in lame-duck," Hatch said.



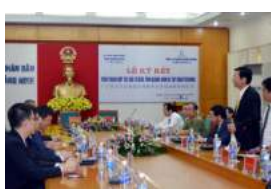
### Vietnam's 2017 Minimum Wage Proposal

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.



### 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.



## 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.



## 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



## 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.



Diamond



Silver



Corporate  
Partnership  
Sponsors

Bronze



**RUSSIN & VECCHI**

**SEAMOC INC.**

AmCham Vietnam | [herb.cochran@amchamvietnam.com](mailto:herb.cochran@amchamvietnam.com) | <http://www.amchamvietnam.com>

New World Hotel Saigon #323

76 Le Lai Street, District 1

Ho Chi Minh City

© 2006 - 2016 The American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam, HCM City