



TPP benefits TN exports, VTV DigitalTV, GE Wind Power, Governors' Ball

FEATURES



TPP benefits U.S. whiskey, auto, and country music exports from TN

Visiting Nashville, Tennessee, country music capital of the world, U.S. Trade Representative Froman said the TPP would benefit U.S. exports of Tennessee whiskey makers, auto producers and the country music industry, as he continued the administration's campaign to build support for Congressional approval of the TPP during the "lame duck" session. Tennessee's whiskey exports were valued at \$691 million in 2015, making up 65% of all U.S. whiskey exports. Import duties on spirits of up to 45% would be slashed under the agreement.



Samsung Turns Farmers Into Bigger Earners Than Bankers

A few years ago, Nguyen Thi Dung was feeding chickens and planting rice to make ends meet in one of the poorest areas in Vietnam. This year, she expects to earn more than a typical stockbroker in the country. The difference? Samsung. "Our lives have improved dramatically since Samsung came," says the 57-year-old ex-farmer, who now rents rooms and sells groceries to assembly line workers, and expects to earn the equivalent of \$68,000 this year. "I want to buy a car and have my children drive me around."



USS John McCain visits Cam Ranh Bay

The destroyer USS John S. McCain and submarine tender USS Frank Cable visited Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam's strategically important sea port, before participating in the seventh annual Naval Engagement Activity with ships from the Vietnam People's Navy. The visit is part of recent U.S. efforts to enhance naval ties with Vietnam as it seeks to counter China's assertiveness over disputed territory in nearby waters.



GatesAir supplies Digital TV transmitters to VTV

An aggressive early adopter of DVB-T2 digital television, national broadcaster Vietnam Television (VTV) recently placed orders for transmitter network expansions. The first project comprises four GatesAir Maxiva™ UHF solid-state high-efficiency transmitters, three ULXT liquid-cooled models and one UAXT air-cooled model-for unspecified VTV channels. The second project is specific to VTV5, a specialty channel serving ethnic minority communities. That project comprises two Maxiva ULXT liquid-cooled transmitters.



Mainstream Renewable Power, GE to Develop, Build and Operate Wind Power Plants in Vietnam

The \$1.5 billion of wind projects are expected to comprise both greenfield and partially developed sites, to include co-operation with local and international developers, and will receive financing through a Mainstream and GE Energy Financial Services joint development agreement. The aim is to compliment the 1GW initiative that GE and Ministry of Industry and Trade signed in May 2016 to accelerate large-scale Vietnamese wind project buildout.



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, on Sat, Dec 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.



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 Nov 2016 at Laguna Golf Lăng Cô. 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 dinics 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" fashion show.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



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.



Advanced Purchase Promotion to North America from HCM City

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 systems provide passengers ultimate satisfaction.



ManpowerGroup

Talent Shortage in Manufacturing Industry Survey

The survey, conducted by ManpowerGroup Vietnam in Q4 2016, is open to all members of AmCham. What employers, especially in manufacturing industry, find difficult filling, the reason for that situation, the impact of talent shortages have on their organizations and what steps they are taking to address these issues, ... are the main topics explored in this survey. The detailed report will be sent to all participants together with a thank-you gift, hoping to provide insights and suggestions to CEOs and HR Directors/Managers in their Talent Development Plans.



Big gap between local companies and MNCs for compensation and benefits

With remuneration data of 244,500 employees from 557 MNCs and local organizations, the Talentnet - Mercer C&B survey continues to be the largest and the most comprehensive 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.



Nov 9 U.S. Consulate General 2016 Presidential Election Watch Party

At GEM Center, 8 Nguyen Binh Khiem, D1, Ho Chi Minh City - Wednesday, November 9, 8:00 AM. Join the U.S Consulate General HCMC to watch the live U.S Presidential Election results. Open to the public, no RSVP required.



Nov 10 AusCham HCMC Workshop - Introduction To Public Speaking

The purpose of this workshop is to help Vietnamese Alumni/ae become more competent in delivering effective business presentations. The workshop will provide participants with an overview of the knowledge, skills, and techniques needed to deliver professional presentations. The workshop will include lecture, videos, exercises, discussions, and a question time period. It will be both challenging and enjoyable and is a great opportunity to learn about how to become a professional presenter.



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 Outing

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 lunch-time 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 **10.8K twitter followers**, 9.1K 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



With 4 million Vietnamese working overseas, what can local firms do to draw them back home?

Read the latest whitepaper 'Return of the Asian Talent' from Robert Walters to find out the different motivators and incentives that will influence overseas Asians to seek employment opportunities back home.



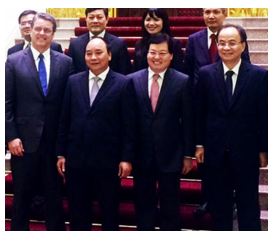
Intercontinental Nha Trang Named Winner Of Vietnam's Leading Luxury Hotel At The 2016 World Travel Awards

It is the second year in the row, InterContinental Nha Trang with its focus on delivering inspiring travel experiences to world travellers has celebrated its win on the coveted title of Leading Luxury Hotel of Vietnam by World Travel Awards. The highly recognized accolade marks another milestone for the hotel's continuous effort to set a fine example of distinction and elegance, helping to define the coastal city's stature as a luxury destination.



UL Opens First Consumer Testing Facility in Vietnam

UL, a global safety science organization, officially opened its new Consumer and Retail Services (CRS) Testing Laboratory in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The state of the art laboratory spans over 1,300 square meters and expands capacity in the region to test toys and premiums, textiles, footwear, accessories and jewelry for compliance with a variety of safety and performance-related requirements.



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.



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.



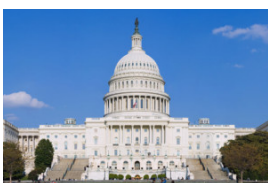
Senator Hatch: TPP can get done in the lame duck session

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 | <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