



TET Lunar New Year, Membership Renew, Directory

FEATURES

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
30	31					
THÁNG 2/2017						
Thứ Hai	Thứ Ba	Thứ Tư	Thứ Năm	Thứ Sáu	Thứ Bảy	Chủ Nhật
		1	2	3	4	5

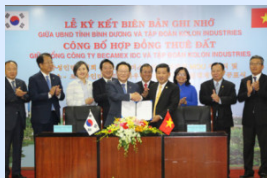
TET Lunar New Year, 2017 . Jan 26 - Feb 1 - Seven Days

Traditionally, there are several main days of celebration: Tết Lunar New Year's Eve (Jan 27), and The First (Jan 28), Second (Jan 29), and Third (Jan 30), Fourth (Jan 31), and Fifth (Feb 1) of Tết Nguyen Đán. Vietnamese traditionally celebrate Tết from the fifteenth day of the twelfth lunar month to the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. And, even today, business slows two weeks before and two weeks after TET. The 2017 TET Holidays in Vietnam are from Thu, Jan 26 to Wed, Feb 1 inclusive.



Vietnam to apply extensive area code changes in 2017

Area code changes in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Dong Nai, Binh Duong, and a number of other provinces will take place on June 17, 2017. The new area codes will be applied for 59 cities and provinces in three phases, from February 11 to June 17, with steps taken to ensure the change will not confuse the public, the Ministry of Information and Communications announced. But there are other concerns, such as the need to reprint packaging or business cards once numbers are changed, costing quite a sum.



Korea's Kolon Industries to invest \$1 billion in Binh Duong, Vietnam

To develop a factory manufacturing airbags and industrial fabric for automobile tires, aiming to capture a larger share of the domestic and international market. Kolon Industries will rent a 42-hectare area in Becamex IDC's expanded Bau Bang Industrial Park to construct the factory. The long-term investment plan has three phases. The first phase, with a total investment capital of \$220 million, will be disbursed in the 2017-2018 period, the second phase will last until 2026 with \$600 million. The \$1 billion mark will be hit sometime after 2026.



TAL: Back to the future through Vietnam

TAL Apparel's \$50 million plant in Vietnam opened in October, can produce 16,000,000 shirts annually, in 100,000 variations, when output ramps up in the future, part of Vietnam's bid to join apparel global supply chains and employ millions. But the biggest news is across the road, where construction is under way on a \$320 million TAL textile mill, part of an integrated operation from yarn dyeing to fabric weaving to finishing



Chile, Swaziland the 97th and 98th WTO members to ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement

Chile and Swaziland submitted their instruments of acceptance to WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, making them the 97th and 98th WTO members to do so. The TFA will enter into effect when 2/3 (108) of the 162 WTO members have ratified the agreement.



Homeland Security Chief Cites Phishing as Top Hacking Threat

Why are people still such suckers for phishing? At a security event in New York this week, top law enforcement officials shared their concerns, and their biggest pre-occupation was plain old e-mail. "The most devastating attacks by the most sophisticated attackers almost always begin with the simple act of spear-phishing," Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told the crowd, referring to malicious emails that appear to come from a credible source. He has a point. The debacle over leaked emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman began when the chairman, John Podesta, fell for a fake Gmail message. So what can we do about it?



After the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a perspective from Vietnam

President Obama has announced that he will no longer seek passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Congress, leaving the fate of the treaty in the hands of President-elect Trump and the Congressional Republican leadership.

This matters for two reasons. First, within a decade, four of the five largest economies of the world will border the Pacific Ocean. The United States will be able to continue its global leadership role only if it retains an integral, active presence in the Pacific. Second, if the United States retreats from the region, as a defeat of TPP in Congress would surely signal, an emboldened China will ever more aggressively seek to displace America.



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Renew your membership NOW and have your company profile updated in **2017 Membership Directory**. And, 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
- Publishing date: April 2017

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



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Enjoy a family vacation with a host of recreational activities! Immerse yourself in our award-winning spa treatment or challenge yourself to a game of golf at our championship 18-hole course. A fun-filled vacation beckons! From now till 22 December 2016, book your two-night stay from VND 14,000,000 nett* and receive resort credits worth VND 1,000,000 and other perks!

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



Round trip airfare to Los Angeles from USD664 All-in

With 121 direct flights weekly to 8 cities in North America, Cathay Pacific offers you the most convenient, time saving routings. Our young, modern fuel efficient aircraft and renowned inflight service delivers a seamless travel journey from departure to arrival. For business or leisure travel, let Cathay Pacific makes your next journey a Life Well Travelled.



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 the ultimate satisfaction.



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 this schedule, customers can connect, with a convenient layover time, 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.

Labor Law And Social Insurance Seminar



On 6th December 2016, LABOUR LAW AND SOCIAL INSURANCE SEMINAR, hosted by Payroll & HR Outsourcing - Talentnet will be hold in GEM Center, Ho Chi Minh City. The seminar will feature the difference between theory and court's perspective in common labor disputes. Companies could take it as a chance to have direct questions to our keynote speakers.



Seafood Galore Buffet Dinner @ Café Central An Dong

At Café Central An Dong of Windsor Plaza Hotel, seafood lovers can delight with favorite seafood dishes on the nightly Seafood Galore Buffet throughout November. It is truly an amazing international feast highlighting seafood specialties from the hotel's talented culinary team using a wide variety of fresh and flavorful imported and locally-sourced seafood including lobster, oysters, king prawns, salmon, blue crab and much more.



Nov 29 Digital Bank Disruption

Uber has completely disrupted the taxi industry, will Digital Banks also be as disruptive in the banking industry in Vietnam? This event features speakers discussing: how Timo, the first 100% digital bank in Vietnam is already causing disruption; whether more traditional banks can rise to the challenge; and whether the Vietnam legal framework is helping or hindering the banking industry. A mix of lively presentations and heated panel discussions, this event will provide insights into the disruption of banking in Vietnam.



Nov 30 Laws Amending Laws On Business - Which Way To Go?

As the New Government set the Year 2016 as Year of Enterprises, it aimed to reduce the red tape and bureaucracy in the Law on Enterprises (LOE), Law on Investment (LOI), and Law on Construction (LOC). At the moment, many important issues have been presented, such as what is the impact of the new laws to your business as FDI companies? what is the real benefit by splitting IC into IRC and ERC? When can all the problems relating to "conditional businesses" be removed? Does the reform in 2015 create more issues than solutions? Will the reform in 2016 amend what is necessary to amend? A proposal to amend the three laws LOE, LOI and LOC was presented to the National Assembly, but was returned for not addressing the key issues.



Dec 10 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball - A Southern Christmas - SOLD OUT

The 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball will be organized 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.

Thanks to our TOP SPONSORS: **Amway, Becamex, Coca-Cola, InterContinental Asiana Saigon, Suntory Pepsi, Vietnam Waste Solutions, AIM, Amanoi, ANA/United Airlines, Baker & McKenzie, Truong Phat JSC, INTEL, Metkraft, Procter & Gamble, Victoria Healthcare, and Walmart.**

We are still seeking donation of cash and vouchers of products/services for raffle- and silent auction prizes. **Sponsorship Packages** will provide you full details of benefits for sponsors.



Dec 11 4th Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus is coming toSaigon! Get ready and excited once again to see Santa and welcome our friends from Binh Loi Social Center at the 4th Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa. Limited Tickets Available, so please book early:

- **Download the form**, fill in and send to Mr. Toan Nguyen: amcham.pr@amchamvietnam.com
- Buy tickets at AmCham office: New World Hotel, Floor 3, Room 323, 76 Le Lai, District 1

* A portion of every adult ticket sold will help fund the cost of a child from Binh Loi Social Center to attend the breakfast.

*Advance ticket purchase only - no sales at door; tables of 10 or 12 should be reserved in advance.



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 13 and Dec 13).



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.

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 October and November 2016:

Baxco Pharmaceutical, Bollore Logistics Vietnam, Digital Age Dental Laboratories, GO FIntech,

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 **10.9K twitter followers**, 9.2K 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 commitments 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](#).

News and Issues



Debunking the Myth about US Scholarships and Admissions Process

It is that time of year again. As the calendar turns to December, students are busy making one of the most important decisions of their lives about where to go to college.

It is also when misleading articles crop up and some college counselors start to prey on the hopes and dreams of parents and students. Since we care about what is best for the entire student community whether they work with us or not, we want to write this article to provide unbiased information so students and parents can make informed decisions.



Investment Funds - Call for Proposals - Overseas Private Investment Corp.

Call Objectives: OPIC seeks to select profitable funds with positive developmental impact through a competitive and transparent process. Selected funds will target unlisted investments in OPIC-eligible countries that support growth, expansion, business development, spin-outs, management buyouts, restructuring, and/or privatizations. The Call for Proposals is open to managers from all regions and strategies.



Vietnam delays TPP ratification, but not international integration

"The United States has announced it suspends the submission of TPP to the Congress so there are not sufficient conditions for Vietnam to submit its proposal for ratification," Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc told the National Assembly on Nov 17. "We are ready to join the TPP but with or without this trade deal, Vietnam will remain on the international integration path."

Country	GDP in 2013	%	Cumulative	100%
U.S.	16,768.1	60.3%	60.3%	99.7%
Japan	4,919.6	17.7%	77.9%	82.3%
Canada	1,839.0	6.6%	84.5%	93.4%
Australia	1,563.9	5.6%	90.2%	94.4%
Mexico	1,258.8	4.5%	94.7%	95.5%
Malaysia	323.3	1.2%	95.8%	98.0%
Singapore	302.8	1.1%	96.9%	98.9%
Chile	276.7	1.0%	97.9%	99.0%
Peru	201.9	0.7%	98.7%	99.3%
New Zealand	187.9	0.7%	99.3%	99.3%
Vietnam	171.2	0.6%	99.9%	99.4%
Brunei	16.1	0.1%	100.0%	99.9%
Combined GDP	27,828.7	100.0%		

TPP Entry into force: two years, three scenarios

As the data in the table shows, both the U.S. (60.3%) and Japan (17.7%) must ratify for the TPP to enter into force, since the required 85% can't be reached without both of them. Two of the three "5%" countries, Canada (6.6%), Australia (5.6%), and Mexico (4.5%), must ratify, for the same reason. And at least two of the other TPP countries "1%" countries must also ratify to reach the required six TPP governments and 85% of the combined GDP in 2013.



Looking back two years ago ... New U.S. Congressional leaders support TPA, TPP

Since the new Congress was sworn in on Jan 6, 2015, leaders of both the House and Senate have cited trade as a top bipartisan priority for the new year. In new U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) first official remarks, he noted the president has "already indicated a willingness

to work with us on trade and infrastructure and comprehensive tax reform. Navigating the political pitfalls won't be easy. But passing these types of things would represent a win for the American people." In separate remarks, McConnell and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) said they expect a bill on Trade Promotion Authority to be introduced soon. The new leadership doesn't guarantee passage, but it sidelines the biggest foe, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV).



Obama Administration gives up on TPP ... ?

On Fri, Nov 11 in Washington DC, "Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress told the White House they wouldn't advance the TPP in the election's aftermath," during the lame duck session, "and Obama administration officials acknowledged it has no way forward now." Both presidential candidates opposed the TPP.



U.S. to investigate alleged China steel transshipments via Vietnam

The Department of Commerce is expected to launch a formal investigation into whether Chinese steel companies are shipping steel through Vietnam to avoid U.S. import tariffs. Independent trade data supports what the steelmakers are alleging. In the first six months of 2016, shipments of steel from Vietnam to the U.S. increased to 312,329 tons, from 25,756 tons in the year earlier period, according to data firm Global Trade Information Services.



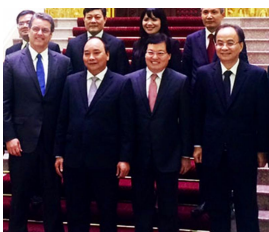
Mainstream Renewable Power, GE to Develop, Build and Operate Wind Power Plants in Vietnam

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.



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."



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.



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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