

Trans-Pacific Partnership Business Leaders Forum

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On behalf of the members of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (**AusCham**) we would like to thank AmCham for inviting us to co-host this important forum on the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP). Australia and Vietnam recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations and the TPP is another step in building the relationship between our two countries.

Australia has already FTAs with many of the countries participating in the TPP. Australia and New Zealand have established close trade links with ASEAN through the formation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) in 2009, Australia's most ambitious trade deal to date. In addition, Australia and New Zealand are involved in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations that were launched by leaders from ASEAN and ASEAN's FTA partners in 2012.

AusCham represents and promotes the interests of Australian businesses in Vietnam and also businesses, based in Vietnam, that have a link to Australia. The main industries of our members are in banking, construction, education, human resources, legal and accounting services, manufacturing, and telecommunication. Therefore, our members would like to see progress on the more challenging issues that remain particularly in the following areas:

- Services
- Investment (investor-state dispute resolution)
- Intellectual property
- Electronic commerce
- Government procurement
- Competitive neutrality of SOEs
- Labour
- Environment
- Agriculture (various products)

Based on our understanding of the TPP arrangements, we believe that all of these issues, and more, are addressed by the TPP.

In order to help Vietnam benefit from the TPP, AusCham is prepared to work with the Vietnamese government and other Chambers to resolve outstanding issues. By resolving these issues the Vietnamese economy will continue to grow thus raising the standard of living of Vietnamese citizens. Alternatively, if Vietnam were, for any reason, left out of the TPP, its competitiveness in foreign markets would weaken comparatively. We look forward to seeing progress on the TPP in Vietnam and again would like to thank AmCham for inviting us to co-host this forum.
