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20th Anniversary, Tropical Fruits, Thai Retail Expansion in VN, More Visa Waivers?

FEATURES



Thu, Sep 18, AmCham's 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

Celebrating 20 years of effort and achievement since AmCham's informal establishment in Ho Chi Minh City in March 1994, and the remarkable development of trade and investment relations between Vietnam and the United States since then, from "normalization," to the Bilateral Trade Agreement, WTO Accession, and recently to "Comprehensive Partnership." Featuring gourmet fare, first class entertainment, and recognition of those that have contributed to our growth and development, including senior business and government leaders, and companies that have been with us since the early days. *Special thanks to our Platinum Sponsors: AIM, Coca-Cola, ExxonMobil, and Vietnam Trade Alliance.*



U.S. opens door to Vietnam's tropical fruits

Vietnamese litchi and longan will be allowed to be sold in the U.S. starting in October, following an amended regulation from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The APHIS, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) responsible for protecting animal and plant health, has amended the "fruits and vegetables regulations to allow the importation of litchi and longan fruit from Vietnam into the continental United States," according to a document published in the Federal Register. ...



Thai retailer eyes bigger plans in Vietnam: 300 B's Mart Stores by 2018

after spending 655 million euros (US\$860.56 million) to acquire the Vietnamese unit of Germany-based retailing chain Metro Cash & Carry in July. ThaiBerli Jucker Plc has set aside around 1 billion baht (\$31.26 million) to set up 205 B's Mart utility stores in Vietnam until 2018.

Is this planning based on the ASEAN Economic Community 2015? ...



Ministries float visa waivers for 9 more countries, to increase air travel, tourism

The Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism have proposed that the Vietnamese government expand its visa waiver scheme for nine more international tourists, according to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT). Accordingly, if approved, visitors from France, Germany, the UK, Spain, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, India, and Canada would enjoy visa exemptions when traveling to Vietnam. ...

Events, Meetings, Special Offers

Beer Festival Sept 26th, 27th & 28th and Oct 3rd, 4th, and 5th

Funcity! Saigon is pleased to announce the annual BeerFest: Sept 26, 27 & 28 also Oct 3, 4, & 5 at FunCity Saigon, 634 Bis Pham Van Chi, P8 Dist 6. The family-friendly event features live entertainment, international food & beer, a large indoor playground with minigolf & carnival rides. Live Entertainment, plus Miss Vietnam will preside over various activities. 6-12 pm, 500,000VND adults (open tap beer) and 200,000VND children (unlimited playground & mini golf), please join and share the fun.



www.saiгонbeerfest.com www.funcitysaigon.com



20 Year Anniversary Charity Gala Dinner, in aid of the "Christina Noble Children's Foundation" giving back to the community

On 8 October 2014, The New World Saigon Hotel presents a day of celebrations marking 20 illustrious years of service and style in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City, culminating in an evening of "giving back to the community", with a dream to raise much needed money for this very worthy cause. Children in Ho Chi Minh City. Join us for this journey to remember, it's been our pleasure to serve, and be a part of a celebration that's been 20 years in making and let's give back to the community. For more information, please contact us at +84 8 3822 8888 or email saigon@newworldhotels.com

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From September 1, 2014 a second checked bag is FREE!



ANA and United are changing their policy to allow for customers to check a second bag free. Previously customers paid \$100USD for checking a second bag. For select Pacific points of origin including Vietnam to North, Central and South America and effective for tickets issued on/after 31JUL 2014, a second bag can be checked free of charge for travel from 01SEP14-30APR15. For more information on each carrier's baggage policies, visit www.united.com/baggage, and/or http://www.ana.co.jp/www/vn/e/www_common/campaign/baggage_1407/

Korean Air Launches Daily Service to Houston



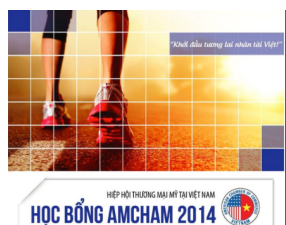
Korean Air, America's largest Asian airline, launched nonstop service between Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and Incheon International Airport in Seoul. Nonstop flights connecting the two destinations will depart from the Terminal D facility at Bush Intercontinental Airport (at 10:40 am) daily. The additional daily nonstop service of Korean Air to the Americas will provide great connectivity between Southeast Asia and Houston under a convenient schedule.

More on Korean Air's programs, routes, frequencies and partners is available at www.koreanair.com.



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Sep - Dec AmCham Scholarship 2014

AmCham will award scholarships to 45 top students from leading universities in Ho Chi Minh City after an extensive, three-month long assessment and selection process. This flagship program offers AmCham companies an excellent framework for identifying talent, and offers students an experiential learning opportunity about how to apply to join international companies. In addition, we offer "AmCham Women in Engineering Scholarships," and "AmCham - II-VI Foundation Engineering Scholarships." All scholarship programs are managed by the HR Committee, the AmCham Scholars Alumni/ae Club, and the AmCham Executive Office. For more information about AmCham Scholarship 2014, please click [HERE](#).



Sep 16, Life Sciences Symposium - Drug Registration in Vietnam and Southeast Asia

Tilleke & Gibbins and AmCham are pleased to be hosting a symposium on the practical aspects of doing business in pharmaceuticals and the contemporary issues surrounding the life sciences industry in Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia. Highly experienced lawyers from Tilleke & Gibbins' Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, and Bangkok offices will provide attendees with a high-level overview of what steps must be taken to ensure your company is compliant with often strict registration requirements, and is able to protect its valuable intellectual property in the region.



Sep 19-21, AmCham Fall Weekend in Da Nang

Vietnam's economic and business climate faces a number of challenges. Looking forward, what can businesses expect? What new challenges may be on the horizon? What new legislation is the government considering? How can you best protect your organization and investment while preparing to profit from future opportunities here? You are invited to join the leadership from AmCham and the leadership from the US Embassy in Hanoi and the US Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City to discuss these important topics during AmCham's Fall Weekend.



2nd SEMI® Vietnam Semiconductor Strategy Summit in HCM City, Sep 16-17

Executives of the world's leading microelectronics companies meet delegates representing Vietnamese government, academia, research, and industry to explore and discuss the key strategies, challenges, and opportunities in growing the Vietnam semiconductor industry. The event will bring together the key decision-makers shaping the future of the industry in Vietnam and help forge the connections and relationships that will drive growth over the next decade and beyond.



Sep 23-25, International Law Enforcement IP Crime Conference, Ha Noi

will be co-hosted by INTERPOL and the Vietnam National Police in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and be held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Hanoi. A unique forum where delegates have the opportunity to learn about and discuss operational best practices that can be utilized to combat transnational organized IP crime. We anticipate some 500 delegates representing both the public and private sectors will attend from nearly 70 countries. Includes plenary sessions, operational workshops, interactive round tables and specialized IP Crime learning sessions. It will also feature one-to-one networking sessions when delegates can discuss operational matters with representatives of investigative agencies and other entities.

AmCham Member Discounts Program

The AmCham Member Discounts Program is provided as one of our Membership Benefits. It serves as a mutually beneficial opportunity for both AmCham Members and AmCham Discount Partners. Members must present their AmCham Membership Card to receive special, privileged discounts offered by AmCham Discount Partners. A listing of discount offers is available in the annual Membership Discount Handbook (hardcopy) and on the AmCham website.



Networking 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 AmCham's website: plus 6.5k twitter followers, 4.8k facebook fans
- Announcement in Weekly Email: 4,500+ AmCham company representatives and subscribers.
- AmCham Member Companies are offered 3 complimentary announcements in 2014.**
- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Directory
- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Discount Handbook
- Advertising on AmCham Discount Online



Samsung searches for Vietnamese suppliers

Samsung is willing to partner with local part suppliers but there are in fact few qualified businesses. The South Korean electronics firm will prioritize placing orders at local businesses if they are able to meet three standards: product quality, delivery time, and price. The localization rate - the amount of materials and parts that can be sourced locally - at the Samsung facility remains at around 39%. But this figure mostly represents the foreign direct investment (FDI) suppliers, while there are very few 100 percent Vietnamese businesses supplying parts to Samsung. ...



Ministry of Science and Technology delays restrictions on used machinery imports

on Fri, Aug 29, by issuing Decision 2279/QĐ-BKHCN which stopped implementation of Circular No 20/ 2014/TT-BKHCN. According to media reports, businesses, organizations and individuals as well as government agencies are not competent to prepare implementation of Circular No. 20. The decision to postpone implementation was made by the Prime Minister at the regular monthly Government (Cabinet) meeting in August. Yoshiko Kobayashi, an official at Kansai Economic Federation's International Committee said "Many Japanese enterprises want to relocate production from China to Vietnam. If Vietnam tightens criteria for importing second-hand machinery this will hamper their investment plans."



Uber has arrived in HCM City

You can now enjoy the luxury and convenience of Uber, an American service that offers vehicles that give passengers the feeling of riding in their own comfortable cars. It only takes a few swipes on a smartphone for clients to start up their Uber app, pick a car, and select the location where they wish to be picked up. The app instantly tells them that a car with a specified license plate will arrive in 10-15 minutes. A photo of the driver is also provided.



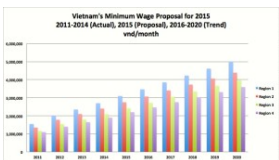
International Travel Exhibition HCMC 2014 * "One Decade, One Mekong, One World"

ITE HCMC 2014 will celebrate its ten-year anniversary with the 2014 edition at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center. Vietnam's key annual international tourism event is expected to attract international travel agents from 30 nations and territories, and more than 20,000 visitors from in and out the country.



World Customs Organization makes changes to HS Classifications

International customs officials at the World Customs Organization (WCO) have agreed on 234 changes to the global system that categorizes products that are imported and exported around the world, and countries are beginning their individual processes to incorporate those changes into their own domestic product category systems. Countries have until January 1, 2017, to incorporate the changes, but much work lies ahead..



Thinking About Vietnam's Minimum Wage Adjustment Road Map to 2020

For planning purposes, businesses should note that MOLISA's Vice Minister said "the increases will be greater in 2016 and 2017." MOLISA's "Minimum Wage Adjustment Road Map" to 2020, is based on (1) Article 56 of the 2012 Labour Code, which provides that "the Government will adjust the MW in order to preserve real wages," and (2) "Party Central Committee Decision 23-KL/TW, May 29, 2012, which states, "Adjust the minimum wage more rapidly ... so that ... it will reach the level of the "Basic Needs Wage."

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