



## Vietnam-U.S. Relations; WTO Director General visits Vietnam; U.S. Steel complaint vs China

### FEATURES



#### Secretary Kerry and Ambassador Vinh on Vietnam-U.S. Relations

Secretary Kerry said, "It is clear that we have turned some very important corners. There are hard choices still to make for our relationship to reach its full potential, but now we can say definitively, because so many Vietnamese and Americans themselves refuse to let our past define our future, Vietnam, a former adversary, is now a partner with whom we have developed increasingly warm, personal and national ties." He and Ambassador Vinh spoke at the April 26-28, 2016 LBJ Presidential Library "The Vietnam War Summit." The goal was to shed definitive light on the war, and its lessons and legacy. Kerry added, "That is our shared legacy, and is one that I hope we will continue to strengthen in the years to come."



#### WTO DG visits Vietnam, highlights Trade Facilitation Agreement

"For Viet Nam, the Trade Facilitation Agreement could reduce trade costs by as much as 20%. Cutting a fifth off the cost of trading would make a huge difference. It will help boost trade flows. It will support SMEs to start exporting. And, in a time when production chains have been globalised, it will help Vietnam's economy to connect to cross-border production networks." Vietnam ratified the TFA in Dec 2015.



#### India ratifies the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

Ratifying the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement will help boost economic growth by reducing trade costs and supporting integration into the global economy. India is the 76th WTO member to accept the TFA, which will enter into effect when 2/3 (108) of the 162 WTO members have ratified the agreement. ...



#### U.S. Steel files ITC complaint against Chinese steel producers

United States Steel Corporation filed a complaint with the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to initiate an investigation against the largest Chinese steel producers and their distributors. The complaint alleges illegal unfair methods of competition and seeks the exclusion of all unfairly traded Chinese steel products from the U.S. market. The complaint alleges three causes of action: illegal conspiracy to fix prices, theft of trade secrets, and the circumvention of trade duties by false labeling.



#### A Fun-Filled Getaway To The Heart Of Central Vietnam

Experience spontaneous fun at Angsana Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam. Angsana Lăng Cô is the perfect destination for every member of the family to enjoy a blissful and fun-filled holiday where little ones can enjoy outdoor activities such as sandcastle building and canal boat trips - all with professional supervision- while Mom and Dad recharge with a refreshing massage treatment.



**Tickets sold very fast last year so purchase to tickets early to avoid disappointment.**

**Click [HERE](#) for Event Schedule, Sponsorship Opportunities, and Ticket Booking**



### **Attractive Early Bird Deals to U.S. 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.



**MANUFACTURING  
COMMITTEE**

### **May 16 Manufacturing Committee: Demand Driven MRP (DDMRP) (For Members Only)**

Regular monthly meeting of the Manufacturing Committee for networking, information-sharing, and planning advocacy efforts to improve the business environment and promote trade and investment between Vietnam and the U.S.



**AMCHAM  
PALOOZA**

### **May 25 AmCham Palooza Party at Hard Rock Cafe**

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!



### **Jun 04 Green Bike 2016 - POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

In response to World Environmental Day, AmCham, in partnership with Intel and World Wildlife Fund - environmental partner - co-host a Green Bike on Saturday, June 4 at District 7, HCM City. The theme is "Act now to change climate change." The bike ride focuses on raising awareness of protecting the environment as well as preventing climate change.



**ICT COMMITTEE**

### **Jun 09 How Cloud Can Benefit Your Business?**

Global SaaS software revenues are forecasted to reach \$106B in 2016, increasing 21% over projected 2015 spending levels. By 2018, more than 60% of enterprises will have at least half of their infrastructure on cloud-based platforms. A recent study projects that spending on cloud computing infrastructure and platforms will grow at a 30% CAGR from 2013 through 2018 compared with only 5% growth for the overall enterprise IT. Clearly there's a lot happening in Cloud. However it's 2016 and we're in Vietnam, so what can Cloud do for our business?



### **2016 AmCham Membership Card & Discount Handbook**

The 2016 AmCham Membership Cards and Discount Handbooks are being delivered to Members. If you have not received them, please kindly contact our **Membership Team**.



### **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 Mar & Apr 2016:

*ADEN Services, AVIS Vietnam, Bach Khoa Investment and Development of Solar Energy Corp., French-Vietnamese Center for Management Education (CFVG), Green Speed, Honeywell, Hotel Nikko Saigon, I am Dream Catcher Ltd., Larion Computing, Manpower, McLarty Associates, Minh Hoang Garment Co., Ltd., Officience, Rentokil Initial Vietnam, Scanwell Logistics, Sunflower Media, Supply Chain Services International, Terralogic, TIRO Consulting Services, VVCorp Corporation*



## 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 9.9K twitter followers, 8.0K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.4k 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

**Special thanks to COCA-COLA and TRUONG PHAT JVC for re-joining our 2016 Program**

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

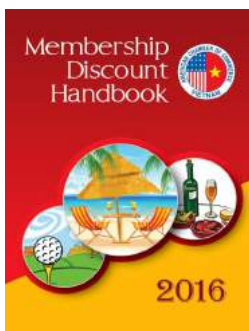
For full information on benefits of each package, please click [HERE](#) or contact [Cindy Tran](#).



## 2016 AmCham Discount Program

The AmCham Member Discounts Program is a mutually beneficial opportunity for both AmCham Members and AmCham Discount Partners. Prestigious vendors are invited to offer AmCham members special discounts on their services or products. Please contact [Ms. Sam Hoang](#)

*(Members 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 at [HERE](#))*





## Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Travel to Vietnam and Japan

The President will travel to Vietnam and Japan May 21-28, on what will be his tenth trip to Asia. This trip will highlight the President's ongoing commitment to the U.S. Rebalance to Asia and the Pacific, designed to increase U.S. diplomatic, economic, and security engagement with the countries and peoples of the region. The President will first visit Vietnam, where he will hold official meetings with Vietnam's leadership to discuss ways for the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership to advance cooperation across a wide range of areas, including economic, people-to-people, security, human rights, and global and regional issues. In Hanoi, the President will deliver a speech on U.S.-Vietnam relations. During meetings and events in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, the President will discuss the importance of approving the Trans-Pacific Partnership this year. The President also will meet with members of civil society, the Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative, entrepreneurs, and the business community.



### Vietnam suffering worst drought in almost a century

A crippling drought in Vietnam threatens to create a shortage of food and water for two million people. Vietnam is going through its worst drought in almost a century amid intense and prolonged El Nino conditions. Low water levels in the Mekong River have caused seawater to flow 90 kilometers into the basin, the furthest recorded in history.



### Drought killing Vietnam rice crops compounds Mekong water crisis

The dry spell in the once-fertile Mekong Delta is devastating food supplies in southern Vietnam and threatening to reduce global exports of rice, seafood and coffee. It is also compounding a Southeast Asia water shortage along a 3,000-mile river that runs from Tibet to Thailand to the East Sea [South China Sea], as climate change and too many dams [in China and Laos] erode livelihoods for millions of farmers in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.



### Half of Vietnam's rice exports go to China

Vietnamese enterprises shipped more than four out of 8.3 million tons of rice for export last year to China via formal [1.98 million tons] and informal [2.02 million tons] channels. Meanwhile, data of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) indicated more than 30% [1.98 million tons] of the 6.6 million tons of rice shipped abroad through official channels last year went to the world's most populous country. [so 2.02 million tons went through informal channels]."



### New rule-based order needed to save the Mekong

As Vietnam suffers its worst drought in nearly a century, debates have been reignited over the mega dams built along the Mekong. The Vietnamese part of the Mekong Delta, the Cuu Long region, accounts for 33% of Vietnam's agricultural sector and 90% of its rice exports, half of which go to China.



### TPP Trade Opportunities from the U.S.

The TPP will create great opportunities for trade by eliminating more than 18,000 tariffs on U.S.-made products sold overseas and establishing the highest standards on labor, the environment, and the digital economy ever to be included in a trade agreement. The agreement's impact on trade between the U.S. and the five TPP countries with which the United States does not yet have a Free Trade Agreement will be particularly profound. These include large, well-established markets like Japan, where U.S. companies exported \$66.8 billion in goods, and growing markets like Malaysia and Vietnam, where U.S. goods exports totaled \$13 billion and \$5.7 billion in 2014, respectively.



### New YKVN Partners, Of Counsel And Counsels

YKVN is announcing the promotion of 2 new partners and 5 counsels. The new partners and counsels come from all three offices of the Firm (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore) and all principal areas of the Firm's practice: corporate, banking and dispute resolution.

In addition, YKVN is also announcing four new senior arrivals. One of counsel expands significantly the Firm's international arbitration capabilities while a counsel will spearhead the Firm's expansion into shipping and be a key player in YKVN's international arbitration practice. The other two counsels are YKVN alumni whose return will strengthen and expand further the Firm's preeminent M&A and capital markets practice.



### **U.S. to focus on implementing commitments in TPP, especially labor**

Looking ahead, we are already working with our TPP partners on implementation and monitoring and enforcement mechanisms," Froman said. "So we've had teams go out to our TPP partners over the course of the last several weeks to talk through what it is they can do to bring their systems into compliance with TPP obligations."



### **Fish Inspection transferred from U.S. FDA to USDA**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has completed the transfer of the domestic and import inspection program for siluriformes fish and fish products to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Siluriformes fish include fish commonly known as "catfish." The primary inspection responsibility was transferred to FSIS on March 1, 2016 for domestic producers and on April 15, 2016 for importers. FSIS is already working with firms associated with these types of fish and fish products.



### **U.S. FDA cracks down on imports of shrimp from Malaysia**

The FDA announced that its District Offices may detain, without physical examination, imports of shrimp and prawns from peninsular Malaysia due to testing that found that approximately one-third of imports from peninsular Malaysia contained residues of nitrofurans and/or chloramphenicol.



### **Finance Committee Chairman explains process of TPP ratification**

The signing ceremony ... is just beginning. We'll debate the merits of each and every provision of this agreement and consider how it will impact workers and job creators in our country and how it will affect the health of our economy. I will focus on the process by which Congress will consider and debate this agreement ... it is important that people, including members of Congress, the administration, stakeholders, and the media, have a full understanding of how this is going to work. As I've said many times, the TPP is an extremely important agreement, and we need to get it done. But, given that importance, we need to focus more on getting it right than on getting it done fast.



### **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  
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**RUSSIN & VECCHI**

**SEAMOC INC.**

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