



**President Obama in Vietnam, EU Parliament: China is NME, Food Safety**

**FEATURES**



**Obama ends arms ban, witnesses deals of \$16 billion, lays out vision**

In a joint news conference on Monday with his Vietnamese counterpart Tran Dai Quang, Obama said "modest" human rights improvements had been made and the decision to end the embargo was about the changing dynamic in ties and "not based on China". A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was evidence engagement had worked in nudging Vietnam to make concessions, like its "unprecedented" commitment to set up independent labor unions under a U.S.-inspired Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal.



**EU Parliament rejects granting China market economy status**

MEPs (Members of EU Parliament) voted against granting China "market economy" status. Some analysts insist that Beijing has been much keener to lobby for MES than reform its own economy. Most countries have concluded that China does not meet the criteria where lending and production decisions are made without state intervention. China, however, insists that the interpretation of its accession agreement to the WTO provides for automatically getting the MES after 15 years.



**China's non-market economy status**

China has pushed hard to be reclassified as a "market economy." It's a fairly wonky issue that isn't getting a ton of attention, but it is hugely important. Now a number of Senators and Representatives is aiming to make sure China isn't given something it doesn't deserve.



**Firms vie for safe food ventures**

Amid growing concerns in Vietnam about unsafe food, many firms are exploring opportunities to produce safe food. Văn Đức Mười, general director of Vietnam Meat Industries Limited Company (VISSAN), said Vietnamese enterprises should associate with each other to become a value chain from production, through packaging to distribution in order to take advantage of low costs and provide opportunities for consumers to have greater access to safe food.



**Re-thinking the politics of trade**

Wage insurance for workers and more enforcement tools for the government. No matter who wins, the 2016 presidential campaign already has undermined public support for trade agreements and should force supporters of the Trans-Pacific Partnership to reassess their strategy. It is difficult to see how an end-of-the-year push for the agreement can succeed when the president-elect, no matter the party, is sure to be dead-set against it.



**Pulitzer Prize Winner Viet Thanh Nguyen: *The Sympathizer***

"My book has something to offend everybody." Though the novel can simply be read as fiction, those who know where to look will see that it is deeply informed by the literary history and theory that Nguyen has studied. Its opening sentence - "I am a spy, a sleeper, a man of two faces - is a homage to Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. Nguyen said the book is a work that brings him closer to his ideal of writing criticism as fiction and fiction as criticism.

**Events, Meetings, Special Offers**



**Tickets sold very fast last year so purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment.**  
**Click [HERE](#) for Event Schedule, Sponsorship Opportunities, and Ticket Booking**

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.



### 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

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.



### 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?



### 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 Apr & May 2016:

*ADEN Services (Vietnam), Bach Khoa Investment and Development of Solar Energy Corp.; Best World Vietnam Co., Ltd; First Alliances; French-Vietnamese Center for Management Education (CFVG); Green Speed Co.; Greystone Data System Vietnam; Honeywell; Larion Computing; Scanwell Logistics; SonKim Land; Sunflower Media*



### 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 **10K twitter followers**, 8.1K 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





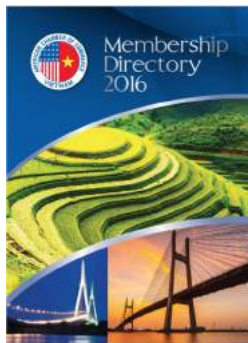
## AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to COCA-COLA, TRUONG PHAT JVC, and INTEL 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](#).

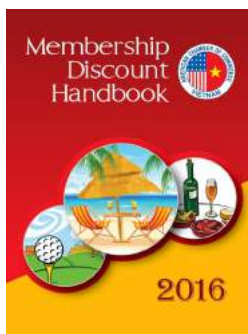


## AmCham Membership Directory

The 2016 AmCham Membership Directory were distributed to all AmCham HCMC members early May. If you have not received it, please kindly inform our [Membership Team](#).

Taking this chance, AmCham would like to say **Thank You** to all members who continues to support AmCham for years, and especially to those who selected AmCham Directory as one of your marketing channels to promote your products and services.

To help you prepare your marketing plan budget next year, please find our Advertising Rates for the [2017 Membership Directory](#). This publication is scheduled to print next March/April. Again, we offer FREE advertising online for booking and payment made before December 15, 2016. Contact [Cindy Tran](#) for more details and booking.



## 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](#))*

## News and Issues



### President Obama in Vietnam, Current Events Override History

When President Obama arrived in Vietnam, his task could be a bit less dramatic than President Clinton's in Nov 2000, but is in many ways far more ambitious. These two countries, bedeviled by decades of misunderstandings, violence and wariness, now have the chance to create a partnership that seemed unlikely even three years ago.



### Anti-trade rhetoric not denting USTR's hopes for TPP vote in 2016

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman believes Congress will approve the TPP before President Barack Obama leaves office. But passing the agreement will require a big push from the business community in the face of outright hostility to new trade liberalization from many in Obama's own party as well as from a surprising number of Republicans.



### U.S. International Trade Commission Report: Impact of TPP on the U.S. Economy and Specific Industry Sectors

The USITC on May 18 released its report assessing the likely impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement on the U.S. economy as a whole, on specific industry sectors, and the interests of U.S. consumers, as requested by the U.S. Trade Representative and required by the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015.



### Plans for coal-fired power are "disaster for planet," WB President

"If Vietnam goes forward with 40GW of coal, if the entire region implements the coal-based plans right now, I think we are finished," WB President Jim Yong Kim told a two-day gathering of government and corporate leaders in Washington, in a departure from his prepared remarks. "That would spell disaster for us and our planet."



### **Vietnam needs a clean energy strategy**

Việt Nam needs a strategy on renewable energy development to ensure energy safety in the context of the country's rapid economic growth and global climate change, said energy experts. Viet Nam has about 2,000-2,500 sunny hours a year, equivalent to 43.9 million tonnes of oil, while the geographic orientation with approximately 3,400km of coastline, provides abundant wind energy at an estimated potential of 800-1,400kW per sq.m. per year.



### **Vietnam hosts defense symposium attended by major U.S. firms**

The symposium comes amid debate within the U.S. administration over whether to respond to Vietnam's longstanding request to remove an arms embargo that is one of the last major vestiges of the Vietnam War era. Vice defense minister.



### **Dams, drought and disaster along the Mekong**

"The combined effects of drought, climate change and dam building are pushing the resources of the Mekong Basin to the brink of disaster," said Maureen Harris, Southeast Asia programme director of the river protection organisation, International Rivers. "If all 11 dams are built, it will convert the lower stretches of the Mekong River into a series of stagnant reservoirs and irreversibly alter the river system of one of the world's most important and iconic rivers."



### **Vietnam GDP increase projected at 6.3%, boosted by electronics exports - IMF**

After recording a five-year high growth of 6.68% in 2015, Vietnam's economic expansion will slow down to 6.3%, but that is a "still-robust" rise. Strong rises in exports and foreign investment in the manufacturing sector will continue to accelerate Vietnam's GDP growth, the IMF said in its April update on Asia-Pacific economic outlook. However, Vietnam's economy is vulnerable to external shocks if it doesn't reform its banking system and state owned enterprises.



### **Drought hurts coffee production in Vietnam**

Coffee production in the world's biggest producer of robusta beans, Vietnam, will likely fall by nearly a third because of severe drought, according to Vietnam's coffee trade group. Coffee-bean output will contract by up to 30% in the next marketing year, said Luong Van Tu, the chairman of the Vietnam Coffee and Cocoa Association, due to severe drought, which has killed nearly 250,000 acres of coffee trees. The marketing year runs through September 2017.



### **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.



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