



**Governors' Ball Raffle Winners, Silent Auction; TPP Debates; ITC Public Hearing on TPP**

**FEATURES**



**Winners of 20th AmCham Governors' Ball Raffle Prizes, Silent Auction**

... listed on the AmCham web site. Click the above link to see the list of winners.



**Trading Views: Debates on key issues in the TPP**

"The 90-day period was established to facilitate an intensive and informed debate over the merits of TPP as negotiated, as well as the necessity for any modifications to the agreement, before the agreement is signed," said Rep. Levin. As part of that engagement, we are organizing a series of in-depth public hearings to assess the merits of the proposed agreement, zeroing in on those issues that are of particular importance or concern to us and our fellow Democratic colleagues. These sessions will help to build a full foundation of information and transparency before Congress votes on the agreement." The first debates focused on environmental, investment (including tobacco), and access to medicines.



**Letter: 90-day notice of intention to enter into the TPP Agreement**

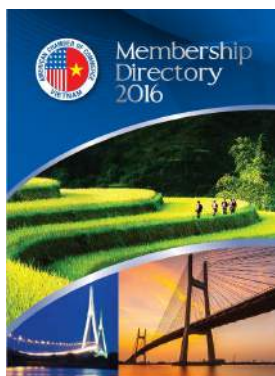
"Consistent with Section 6(a)(1)(A) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-26, Title I; the "Trade Priorities Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intention to enter into a free trade agreement, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement."



**An Absolute-ly Fabulous Escape to Central Vietnam**

Daily golf rounds at the 18-hole Sir Nick Faldo Championship Golf Course, unlimited spa treatments by skilful therapists, and delicious spreads of Vietnamese, Asian, Seafood and International delights. Coupled with a stylish and relaxing room on a resort surrounded by amazing UNESCO Heritage Sites. What are you waiting for? Book this absolute-ly amazing offer\* at Angsana Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam from now until 30 March 2016 from just 5,200,000 VND++ per night.

**Events, Meetings, Special Offers**

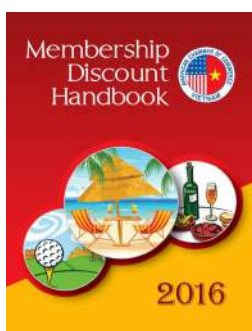


**RENEW your Membership & update your company profile in 2016  
AmCham Membership Directory - published in April 2016**

AmCham is pleased to invite you to renew your membership in 2016 and update your company profile for printing in the 2016 AmCham Membership Directory.

As you plan your marketing activities, be sure to consider our **2016 AmCham Membership Directory**. Click [HERE](#) for Publication's features and Advertising Rates.

*Free advertisement on [AmCham Website](#) will be applied for ad booked and paid before **December 15, 2015**. Do not miss this unique chance to have your brand/ products/ services posted free of charge in one of the top foreign business association websites in Vietnam.*



**2016 AmCham Discount Program**

We are now working on the **2016 AmCham Discount Program**, if you would like to promote your BRAND widely to all members, join the program by contacting [Ms. Sam Hoang](#)

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.

*(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](#))*

**Thank you to New Vendors:** Diamond Sea Hotel Hotels & Resorts; Moc Huong Spa Beauty & Spa; Aroma Beach Resort Hotels & Resort; Cole Haan Fashion; Sorae Sushi Restaurants & Bars; Momo Paradise



### **Intercontinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort Awarded The 'World's Leading Luxury Resort' Again**

Last evening, InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort was accredited at the Grand Final Ceremony of the World Travel Awards Worldwide Categories which was held at El Jadida, Morocco. Annually, various sectors of the tourism industry are recognised, rewarded and celebrated at the World's Travel Awards ceremony with the attendance of the industry leaders across the region. Similar to last year, the Resort received the highest votes from travel professionals and high-end tourism consumers from around the world and was honoured with the World's Leading Luxury Resort award for the second time.



### **Premier Grade A Office Space For Sublet**

Located in: 39F, Bitexco Financial Tower, No2 Hai Trieu, District 1, Hochiminh City, Vietnam  
Please call 0908 047 414 (Mr. Hiếu CBRE Vietnam) or email [tronghieu.le@cbre.com](mailto:tronghieu.le@cbre.com) if you are interested.



### **Sizzling Steak Of The Day**

Throughout December, Corso Steakhouse & Bar is showcasing a range of premium beef cuts from Australia, New Zealand and the United States, cooked just the way you like it in the restaurants open kitchen. A complimentary dessert of the day is offered for every selected steak ordered.



### **Festive Celebrations**

With the festive season just around the corner, Executive Chef Jeremy has created a scrumptious 5-course Christmas set menu which is available on December 24 & 25, 2015. His delectable 6-course New Year set menu is being offered on December 31, 2015 and January 1, 2016.



### **Festive Creations At Shang Palace**

The holiday season is upon us, so celebrate in style at Shang Palace restaurant with our delectable five-course festive set menu. Available from December 20, 2015 to January 01, 2016, Chef Chan Kong Tung has crafted this menu from premium seafood ingredients injected with his signature Cantonese flair, resulting in an unforgettable dining experience.



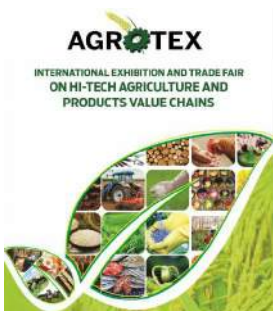
### **Christmas Goodies and Turkey Take Away at Hotel Equatorial Ho Chi Minh City**

Are you going to a Christmas party but are not sure what to bring as a gift? Maybe you are thinking of sending a treat to a special friend this year. Why not visit our lobby Christmas bazaar and discover an extensive range of gifts and festive treats for your friends and family. A variety of Christmas hampers are available and maybe delivered with a festive greeting message to any location within Ho Chi Minh City business district.



### **Korean Air - 3 Daily Flights from Ho Chi Minh to Seoul - Starting 01 December 2015**

Korean Air, with a fleet of 159 aircraft, is one of the world's top 20 airlines, and operates more than 430 flights per day to 129 cities in 46 countries. It is a founding member of the Sky Team alliance, which together with its 19 members, offers its 612 million annual passengers a worldwide system of more than 16,320 daily flights covering 1,052 destinations in 177 countries. [www.koreanair.com](http://www.koreanair.com)



### **Dec 2, International Exhibition and Trade Fair on Hi-Tech Agriculture and Products Value Chains**

In order to enhance the application of scientific and technological advances in production, diversify products, improve the added value of agricultural products and develop Vietnam's agriculture towards modern, effective, sustainable trend that based on the country's economic and social development strategy during the period of 2011-2020, and to support businesses to exhibit their products, promote and co expand business cooperation with partners, within the framework of the project "Agro-Industrial cluster development through small and medium enterprise promotion in agricultural value chains" 2015, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) in cooperation with Can Tho City People's Committee, Vietnam Business Association in Japan, International Exhibition and Trade Fair Center in Can Tho, Vietnam Japan Interface Advertisement Joint Stock Company and Ky Nguyen Advertising and Events Organization Joint Stock Company jointly organize the International Exhibition and Trade Fair on Hi-Tech Agriculture and Products Value Chains" Agrotex 2015.



Does US Expatriation Make Sense?

FATCA has made it very difficult for US persons abroad to stay tax compliant, to invest in a tax efficient manner and to reach their financial goals. Join Jeremy Stobie, CPA, Michael Dye, Esq. and Ann Marie Regal, CFP as they discuss the pros and cons of retaining or giving up US Citizenship.



### **Dec 18 Workshop: Application of the Social Insurance Law 2014**

One full day workshop organized by NVM Group will focus on:

- The regulation on wage fund for contributing to Social Insurance from Jan 01st 2016 and from Jan 01st 2018
- The entitlement to benefits of short-term Social Insurance: sickness, maternity...
- The entitlement to benefits of long-term Social Insurance: lump-sum allowance, pension ...
- Procedure and process regulated by the Law of Social Insurance: report, contribution, inspection and penalty.



### **JOIN US: Become a Member of AmCham Vietnam - HCMC**

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.



### **AmCham welcomes New Member Companies**

AmCham Vietnam - HCMC is pleased to welcome our NEW members who joined us in the last six months. We encourage you to get to know and welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses. **New members in Oct: Viability Health Services Inc., Axon Active Vietnam Ltd.**



### **AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages**

**AIM, Santa Fe Relocations, and United Airlines & ANA have recently joined AmCham Corporate Partnership as Bronze Sponsors. Thank you all for your support.**

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](#).



### **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): 600K+ views/year (70K+ in Oct 2015), 270K+ visitors/year (28K+ in Oct 2015) ... and 9.3K twitter followers, 7.2, K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.0k 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



### **FDA Announces new food safety rules for imports**

An estimated 48 million people (1 in 6 Americans) get sick each year from food-borne diseases. About 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die. Over the past few years, high-profile

outbreaks related to various foods, from spinach to peanut products, have underscored the need to make continuous improvements in food safety. The U.S. FDA took major steps to prevent food-borne illness by finalizing rules implementing the bipartisan Food Safety Modernization Act that establish enforceable safety standards for produce farms and make importers accountable for verifying that imported food meets U.S. safety standards.



### TPP Entry into Force - Article 30.5

"This Agreement shall enter into force 60 days after the date on which all original signatories have notified ... in writing of the completion of their applicable legal procedures. In the event that not all original signatories have notified ... within a period of two years ..., it shall enter into force 60 days after the expiry of this period if at least six of the original signatories, which together account for at least 85 per cent of the combined gross domestic product of the original signatories in 2013, have notified ... "



### U.S. Congress, business groups study TPP as 90-day clock ticks

The TPP is facing stiff opposition from many Democrats and unexpected resistance from Republicans. One Republican leadership aide said TPP needs a long, thorough review by Congress, calling it a "complicated, lengthy deal." Many farm lobby groups have come out in support, but other business groups are still mulling the fine print. The ability of business groups to reach consensus on the agreement has been made more difficult as tobacco, pharmaceutical, automobile and financial services firms have expressed disappointment with the outcome.



### ITC Public Hearing on TPP on Jan 13; Report to be issued on May 18

Following receipt on Nov 5, 2015 of a request from the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the U.S. International Trade Commission has instituted an investigation: "Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sectors," under section 105(c) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, for the purpose of assessing the likely impact of the Agreement on the U.S. economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors and the interests of U.S. consumers.



### NZ offers to host TPP signing ceremony in first half of 2016

The leaders of the 12 TPP countries met at a meeting on the sidelines of the APEC Summit. After the meeting, NZ Prime Minister John Key told reporters New Zealand has offered to host the formal TPP signing ceremony, which is likely to take place in the first half of 2016. The signing would be attended by the TPP ministers.



### Blood Donation Day at the InterContinental Nha Trang

More than 300 participants of 15 hotels, restaurants and Khanh Hoa University in Nha Trang will donate blood to help patients in Khanh Hoa-Vietnam at the Grand Ballroom of InterContinental Nha Trang hotel on Monday, 30 November 2015.

This is the third Blood Donation Day held by the leadership of Nha Trang Destination Marketing Organization (NTDMO) and Vietnam Red Cross in 2015.



### Vietnam's 2015 Minimum Wage Adjustment Announced

Vietnam's Minimum Wage Adjustment for 2016 is about 12.4%, and will go into effect on Jan 1, 2016. The adjustment is twice the level of forecast 2016 GDP growth (6.2%), three times CPI inflation (1.8% in 2015 and 4% in 2016), and four times average annual productivity growth (3.3%). On the other hand, it is lower than increases in the past four years: 2012 (29%), 2013 (17.5%), 2014 (15%), 2015 (15.1%). For the second year in a row, the adjustment is within 1% of our trend line estimate.



### TPP to be submitted to U.S. Congress in first half of 2016?

"I expect that, after the American people and Congress have an opportunity for months of careful review and consultation, Congress will approve it, and I'll have the chance to sign it into law," Obama said in an op-ed posted. Administration officials have indicated they would consult closely with congressional leaders on the exact timing of a vote. But they have begun taking steps that could clear the way for action in the first half of 2016.



### \$300 million to support U.S.-ASEAN agricultural trade

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announces the availability of the \$300 million credit guarantees for sales of U.S. agricultural commodities for export to Southeast Asia in 2016.



## Weekly Updates Archive 2006 - 2014

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.

## 2015 CORPORATE PARTNERS



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