



Walmart Conference, Directory, TPP Hearing, Party Congress, TET, NETFLIX

FEATURES



ITC Public Hearing on TPP Jan 13 - 15; Report on May 18

The U.S. International Trade Commission will hold public hearings Jan 13 - 15 in connection with its 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. The ITC Report is expected to be published on May 18.



Top U.S. business groups endorse TPP, with reservations

Though business groups' support was expected, their roles in helping the White House lobby Congress to pass the deal is considered crucial, particularly in convincing Republican leaders to move forward with a final ratification vote this year. The business groups said they would fight for the deal in Congress, but the direct message in each of the statements was to the administration, not congress.



Chuc mung nam moi ! TET Lunar New Year, Feb 6 - 14, 2015

Tet is traditionally celebrated from the fifteenth day of the twelfth lunar month to the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. The official holidays period is Feb 6 - 14. We wish you all health, happiness and prosperity in 2016, the Year of the Monkey!



U.S. - ASEAN Summit, Feb 15-16, 2016

The summit will take place at Sunnylands in Rancho Mirage, California on February 15-16, 2016. This unprecedented gathering - the first hosted by the United States with the ASEAN leaders - builds on the deeper partnership that the United States has forged with ASEAN since 2009 and will further advance the Administration's rebalance to Asia and the Pacific.



Trading Views: Public Hearing Debates on key issues in TPP

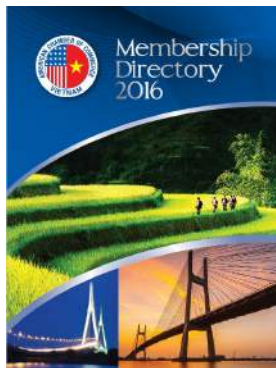
"The 90-day period was established to facilitate an intensive and informed debate over the merits of TPP as negotiated, as well as the necessity for any modifications to the agreement, before the agreement is signed," said Rep. Sander Levin. "Ways and Means Democrats look forward to engaging fully and meaningfully with stakeholders, the public, our colleagues and the Administration during this period. 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), IP and access to medicines, and currency manipulation.

NETFLIX

NETFLIX plans to enter Vietnam

At the opening keynote at the Consumer Electronics Show, Netflix CEO confirmed that the streaming platform will expand to yet another major market - Vietnam - along with other countries. As of 2015, the digital economy phenomenon is live in more than 70 million homes, and users clocked a total of 42.5 billion hours of streaming video for 2015.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



Last Call: Update your company profile in 2016 AmCham Membership Directory - Deadline: Jan 15, 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. 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.

Directory still has some advertisement spaces available. Please contact **Ms. Cindy Tran** for further information.



Months of the Awards

Together with outstanding success in our business during the past few months, CCBVL has continuously honored by prestigious awards in CSR and HR in this December



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



Jan 15 Walmart Women Owned Businesses Supplier Development Conference

As part of our commitment to celebrating, developing and lifting up women around the world, Walmart and VTFA (USAID * VCCI * AmCham) are excited to announce the Walmart Women Owned Businesses Supplier Development Conference (WOBSDC). The event will include speakers and discussions with Walmart executives, Walmart Women Owned Business (WOB) Suppliers in Vietnam, and explanations of how to become a qualified supplier for Walmart's global supply chains.



Jan 21 U.S. College Application Process

The U.S. college admissions process is complicated and is getting more selective every year. Admissions rates at the Ivy League fell to all time lows for the Class of 2019 with Harvard accepting 5.3%, Columbia accepting 6.1% and Yale accepting 6.5%. The drop in admissions rate is not only isolated to the Ivy League but to Ivy League comparable and other competitive colleges.



Jan 27 AmCham Palooza Party at Liquid Sky Bar

AmCham will continue its series of monthly informal networking events at the coolest and latest nightspots in Ho Chi Minh City.

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!



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 Nov & Dec: 105 Construction JSC., Former Fed LLC, Estee Lauder (Vietnam) LLC, KKR Singapore, L&E International Paper Packaging Company Limited.**

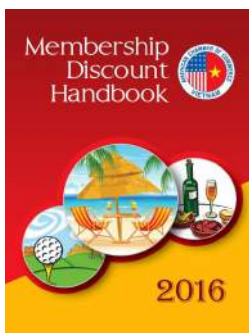
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to Russin & Vecchi for joining us as a Bronze Corporate Partner.

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](#))



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: 600K+ views/year (70K+ in Oct 2015), 270K+ visitors/year (28K+ in Oct 2015) ... and 9.3K twitter followers, 7.4K 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

News and Issues



12th National Party Congress, Jan 20 - 28, 2016

Over 1,500 delegates will attend the 12th Party Congress in Hanoi, representing over 4.5 million Party members. Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong said 68 centrally-run Party organisations sent their reports on the 12th National Party Congress's draft documents. The Viet Nam Fatherland Front, social organisations, administrations at different levels and many sectors held workshops and conferences to collect recommendations.



TPP Issue Analysis - Currency Manipulation

Currency manipulation has cost U.S. workers millions of jobs - and just a few years ago was estimated to be responsible for as much as half of excess unemployment in the United States. It has contributed to stagnant wages for the middle class and to inequality in the United States. Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers recently asserted that the United States should use the leverage provided by TPP to address "inappropriate producer subsidies - including through manipulated exchange rates."



Samsung ups FDI in Saigon Hi-Tech Park project to \$2 billion

The Vietnamese government agreed for Samsung to increase its investment in Saigon Hi-Tech Park (SHTP) from a previous \$1.4 billion. Vietnam is estimated to export more than \$46 billion worth of mobile phones and electronics this year, up 33% from 2014, and nearly one-third of its total exports. The additional \$600 million will go into production of Samsung's Smart televisions and other electronic goods, as well as research and development work.



Thailand's Singha to invest \$1.1 billion with Vietnam's Masan

Masan Group and Singha plan long-term cooperation for both firms to tap into each other's markets with the development of the ASEAN Economic Community 2015, and the Greater Mekong Subregion. They will cooperate in food and beverage segments in the region, especially Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, with a combined 250 million consumers.



New leaders in HCM City

The city council's deputies elected Nguyen Thanh Phong as Chairman of the HCMC People's Committee, replacing Le Hoang Quan, who retires after a nine-year stint in the city government. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has approved the election of Phong, deputy secretary of the HCMC Party Committee, as chairman of the city government. The Prime Minister has also endorsed Le Van Khoa and Nguyen Thi Thu as vice chairpersons of the HCMC People's Committee as elected by the municipal People's Council at its meeting on December 11.



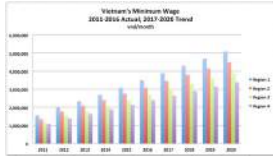
U.S. Trade Advisory Groups reports on TPP

Mostly good marks in 27 reports released by various government advisory committees representing business, agriculture and labor interests. But, as expected, representatives of labor groups, tobacco growers, auto companies and pharmaceutical firms registered their dissenting opinions on the final deal.



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 ... "



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.



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.

Corporate Partnership Sponsors

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