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Textiles and apparel in TPP; Positive impact on Vietnam's apparel sector; Food Safety

FEATURES



Positive TPP impact on Vietnam's textile and apparel sector

As the TPP negotiations near conclusion, both domestic and foreign businesses have begun making upstream investments to take advantage of the preferential treatment that Vietnamese apparel exporters will enjoy under the TPP. Not only will Vietnam's apparel sector gain preferential access to the U.S. market, but it will also be able to capture greater value-added in the supply chain. Tariffs on its apparel exports to the U.S. will eventually drop to near zero from the current 17%.



FDI continues to flow into Vietnam's textile sector

Vietnam's textile and apparel sector continues to be a magnet for FDI. While FDI has fallen in the first six months of 2015, it rose sharply in textiles and apparel. At least \$1.2 billion out of \$5.58 billion worth of FDI went into the textile sector. Several domestic and foreign-invested cotton projects are rushing to begin operating in anticipation of competing across borders after FTAs go into effect.



India jumps on the TPP bandwagon in Vietnam

It is important for Indian companies to take the initiative on the TPP trade deal, which will offer a boost to Vietnam's textile and apparel industry," said Vinod K. Ladia, chairman of the Synthetic and Rayon Export Promotion Council of India. India is the world's second largest supplier of textile and apparel materials, second only to China, so the FDI also means guaranteed supply for Vietnamese enterprises, according to VITAS.



Textiles and apparel in the TPP end-game

The apparel and retail groups in the "TPP Apparel Coalition" want the following elements in the TPP deal: duty-free treatment for at least 75% of current trade; a minimum 50% duty cut for sensitive products, some "single transformation" rules that would allow duty-free treatment for apparel assembled in TPP countries that use textiles from non-TPP countries; flexibility to revisit the "short supply" list, which would allow exceptions of the "yarn forward" rule requiring that textiles and apparel be made in TPP countries; and enforcement measures that recognise the importance of 'trusted trader' (authorised economic operator) program and sophisticated targeting techniques.



FDA plans to strengthen 3rd-party food inspection rules

Proposed rule and draft guidance supports new program that will help foreign entities demonstrate imports meet food safety guidelines. The FDA published a proposed rule and a draft guidance document to support a new program under the FDA Food Safety Modernisation Act that will help eligible foreign entities demonstrate that imported food meets U.S. food safety requirements.



Enjoy a Night On Us at 'Banyan Tree Lang Co, Central Vietnam

With stunning views of the East Sea and the magnificent Truong Son mountain range in the background, the tranquil and intimate Banyan Tree Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam is the perfect destination for a romantic getaway with that special someone. Enjoy a Night On Us when you book a minimum of three nights at this awe-inspiring sanctuary and look forward to a time of pampering and relaxation.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



July 31 Why and how to recruit recent college graduates

The AmCham Scholarships Program will celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2015. During the past 14 years, AmCham has awarded scholarships to 628 outstanding students from 12 leading universities in HCM City. AmCham Scholarships have recognised and encouraged student applicants, and has helped develop high-quality human capital for AmCham companies. This event will recognise the contribution of the Scholarship Interviewers, who have played a key role in the final step of the three-month assessment process. We will look back at the program's vision, mission, and further development in the future. Senior HR department leaders of companies are warmly welcomed. A panel of experts will discuss the compelling and trendy topic: "Why and how to recruit recent college graduates." Our panelists are from Pepsico Foods Vietnam, Unilever Vietnam, Ernst & Young Vietnam, and TalentNet Corporation. They will share their initiatives, benefits, difficulties and experiences of recruiting recent college graduates.



International Seminar: On becoming an HR Professional with Global standards

On August 1st 2015, at Sheraton Hotel, the seminar is a unique place exclusively for Business Leaders and HR Leaders in Vietnam to gather and discuss critical HR issues that are the top concerns of every organization nowadays. PACE Institute of Management, in partnership with Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the world's largest and the most influential HR membership organization devoted to human resources management, co-organize this special event.



ANA and United Airlines Introduce 'Asia Joint Venture Simple' Program to Reward SME Business Travelers

On 09 Jun, 2015 - All Nippon Airways (ANA) and United Airlines launched the Joint Venture (JV) Simple program, a corporate travel program that aims to support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) based in Vietnam when their employees travel on business. Through the JV Simple program, SMEs will enjoy discounts on air travel originating from Vietnam to destinations in North, Central and South America. The program gives SMEs in these countries access to a comprehensive trans-Pacific network through United and ANA that connects to over 227 destinations in the US as well as Central and South America, enabling SME employees to enjoy far more convenient travel. SME travelers will receive additional benefits on United such as premier status, lounge access and upgrades and, like any other customers, they can earn award miles by joining ANA's Mileage Club or United's MileagePlus frequent flyer program. Contact our local JV Sales team Hirakawa san at hi.hirakawa@ana.co.jp & Alice Tu at alice.tu@united.com.



September 18-20 AmCham Fall Weekend at Angsana Lang Co

Join other AmCham members and guests in a networking weekend, with Ambassador's Roundtable discussion of key issues in Vietnam-U.S. trade and investment, and outlook for 2016. Three days/two nights including room at special rates for AmCham group; buffet breakfasts; Fri Welcome Cocktail Reception; Sat Afternoon Roundtable with Ambassador, Consul General, and U.S. Mission Key Officers, followed by Evening Cocktails and Gala Dinner with scrumptious cuisine and fine wines, not to mention the breath-taking sunset over the bay. **REGISTER NOW** for this stimulating weekend, with optional activities including friendly golf, excursion, spa, and simple relaxation. Click here for [Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



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



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 [Mimi Pham](#) 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 welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses. **New members in July:** Avaya, Hellmann Worldwide Logistics, Le & Tran Attorneys At Law, Wahl Clipper.



AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

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: 450,000+ views/year, 200,000+ visitors/year plus 8.8k twitter followers, 6.3k facebook fans, 4.6k LinkedIn followers.
- Announcement in Weekly Email: 4,500+ AmCham company representatives and subscribers.
- AmCham Companies are offered 3 complimentary announcements in 2015.**
- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Directory
- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Discount Handbook
- Advertising on AmCham Discount Online

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 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.

New Vendors:

Binh An Village Resort Dalat; Chanh Bistro, Chanh Services Company Limited, Chi Hoa Culture, El Gaucho, Grand Square Convention Centre & Restaurants, Hoang Yen Group, Hotel Royal Hoi An, Kokois, Le Terroir, M2C Bistro & Café, Princess D'An Nam Resort & Spa, Seventeen Saloon, Tandoor, The Earth Villa, Vietstar Resort & Spa, Phu Yen, Vinpearl Group, Vinpearl Premium Nha Trang Bay.

News and Issues Updates



Jabil to invest an additional \$500 million in HCMC's SHTP

U.S. electronics solutions firm Jabil signed an MOU with the HCMC Government to invest an additional \$500 million to expand its production facility at Saigon Hi-Tech Park. Jabil, which has 90 facilities in 24 countries, and 180,000 employees worldwide, supplies comprehensive services to electronics and technology companies in a broad range of industries.



2016 Minimum Wage Proposals

The National Wage Council will meet at the end of July to review 2016 minimum wage adjustment plans, before submitting a consolidated proposal to the Government for consideration in October, to be effective January 1, 2015. The NWC members include representatives from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL).



Textiles and apparel exports to the U.S. to top \$11 billion in 2015

Shipments of Vietnamese garment and textile products to the U.S., the leading export market of Vietnam, are expected to top US\$11 billion in value this year, a 12.24 percent year-on-year rise, said an official from the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS). The U.S. is Vietnam's top market, covering about 50 percent of the Southeast Asian country's total exports, the Hai Quan (Customs) news website quoted Dang Phuong Dung, deputy chair of VITAS, as saying last week.



Former President Clinton helped celebrate 20th anniversary

"Vietnam had captured our imagination and taken up so much space in our spirit," he told a crowd of Vietnamese VIPs and members of the foreign community in Vietnam. "And somehow, when our Vietnamese friends finally said they would accept us, and we said we would accept them, we were set free." Clinton singled out for thanks four distinguished veterans who as U.S. senators helped shepherd normalisation: Charles Robb, Max Cleland, John Kerry and John McCain. "They made what I was able to do as president possible."



U.S. to host TPP Ministers meetings in Hawaii Jul 28-31

preceded by a Chief Negotiators meeting Jul 24-27. Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb said the TPP could be concluded in the "next three to four weeks." The critical thing was for the U.S. president to get trade promotion authority.



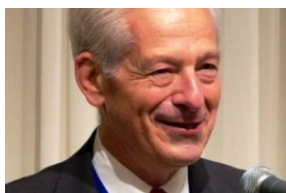
More Boeings for Vietnam Airlines announced in Washington DC

Boeing and Vietnam Airlines agreed in Washington DC to negotiate the sale of eight more 787-10 Dreamliners and eight 777-8X aircraft, a sign of strengthening trade ties. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Fox cited ongoing efforts to facilitate direct flights between Vietnam and the United States and continued cooperation on aviation safety.



Tinh Nghia opens office in Bentonville, AR - home of Walmart

and announced plans to assemble furniture, process coffee in Arkansas.



TPP a strategy for rebuilding a "rules-based, next generation" trading system

"The TPP is really a strategy for rebuilding a rules-based trading system when our 'Plan A' has begun to fail in the WTO," said Professor Peter Petri, a professor of international finance at Brandeis University and co-author of a definitive study on the economic benefits of the TPP



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

CBP offers new assistance program to U.S. exporters

CBP will provide technical assistance to help U.S. exporters resolve issues involving tariff classification and customs valuation treatment by other customs administrations. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) published a General Notice (FR 34924) on June 18, 2015 concerning a new program under which they will provide technical assistance by subject matter experts at CBP to resolve matters involving tariff classification and customs valuation applied by other governments to U.S. exports. CBP announced it has direct responsibility for enhancing U.S. economic competitiveness through the enforcement of the laws of the United States and the fostering of lawful international trade



USTR Froman seeking TPP conclusion before Fall

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman said at a breakfast on Wednesday, July 1 that he was aiming to conclude Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations before fall, but emphasized that the timetable will be dictated by the substance of the talks. "We hope to go to Congress by the end of the year," he added, explaining that the trade promotion authority law required Congress to be notified 90 days before an agreement is signed and has other provisions that will effect how quickly Congress can consider a deal.



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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