



## **Prime Minister's Meeting; U.S., China sign deal to end export subsidies; Members Night**

### FEATURES



#### **Prime Minister's meeting with the business community**

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc pledged to create a level playing field for enterprises from all economic sectors given the business community's concerns over discrimination between the State and private sectors.



#### **U.S., China sign MOU to end China's export subsidies**

The agreement is a step by Beijing to reduce trade frictions with the United States that range from steel and agricultural products to technology and banking. The Obama administration has sought to boost enforcement of alleged trade violations in part to rally support for new trade agreements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership.



#### **USTR: changes to existing U.S. law required to comply with TPP**

The U.S. Trade Representative's office published a description of changes to existing U.S. laws required to comply with the rules of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The one-page document, which is required by the trade promotion authority law, includes only one entirely new legal change under the trade pact, which will require that a customs fee - the merchandise processing fee - not be levied on an ad valorem basis.



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

As Vietnam suffers its worst drought in nearly a century and Cambodia faces a water shortage that could jeopardise the livelihoods of 1.5 million people, 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.



## Customs: 1,000 containers abandoned at Hai Phong port

Nearly 1,000 containers have been left at the port for months, the majority for up to 4 years, causing billions of dong in inventory management, transportation, storage and pollution.



## 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.

### Events, Meetings, Special Offers



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

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



## Oktoberfest Vietnam 2016 at Windsor Plaza Hotel

Oktoberfest Vietnam has been held in Windsor Plaza Hotel since 2005 and was recognized by Reuters and Chicago Tribune as one of the largest Oktoberfest celebrations in Southeast Asia with more than 10,000 attendants per year. Oktoberfest Vietnam 2016 truly captures the authentic atmosphere of the traditional Oktoberfest with guests wear traditional Bavarian attire while dancing to favorite Oktoberfest songs. Throughout the event, there is a expansive buffet of traditional German specialties including sausage, sauerkraut, crispy pork knuckle, pretzels and much more. In addition, guests can indulge with freeflow imported German beer including Krombacher pils and Schneider Weisse. Partake in delightful activities and stand a chance to win biggest valuable prizes from the nightly lucky draw.



## 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.



## **May 05 New Member Welcome and Orientation (Members only)**

**Who should join?** New Joined Members' Representatives and Staffs

Join us at this Welcome and Orientation Meeting to learn how to best utilize your membership investment. This Orientation Meeting is the perfect opportunity for new members, members, and invited guests to get familiar or reacquainted with all the benefits, events and programs offered to you to help grow your business. You will hear from Executive Director, Herb Cochran on ways to get involved and participate through AmCham's three pillars of: networking, information sharing and working together to improve the business environment.



## **May 05 Members' Night & Meet the U.S. Consulate General**

AmCham invites you to attend a Members Night, with cocktails and buffet reception. Members' spouses and guests are not only invited but also encouraged to attend with you. Welcome by AmCham Board Member, and introduction of Key Officers from the U.S. Consulate General, the cocktail reception will offer networking opportunities for one-on-one conversations with the Consulate General Team, AmCham Governors, fellow members, and especially meet new members, almost 70 companies have recently joined AmCham last year.



**DR. LIEM PHAN**

## **May 06 How to Reduce Cancer Risk**

This event will focus on improving our understanding about the danger of cancer, the causes of this devastating disease, and most importantly, how to reduce the risk for cancer. In Vietnam, there are about 150,000 new cancer cases detected annually with a death rate of 74.8% (among the highest levels in the world). The risk for cancer in Vietnam is high and cancer prevention, therefore, is extremely important. If we apply all cancer prevention measures, we can decrease the number of cancer cases by 2/3. The knowledge learned at this event may save lives and keep loved ones healthy. Please join us for a common goal of living a healthy, cancer-free life.



## **May 12 Recent Enforcement and Investigation Trends in Vietnam and Asia: What to Expect and How Your Company Can Prepare**

2015 saw regulators across the globe continue to flex their international muscle. Local regulators in Vietnam and across Asia are also exercising their investigative powers against both local and foreign companies. What does this mean for business? What are the trends in cross-border investigations and how should businesses respond? What factors are most important to assessing risk when investing in these countries? Milton Lawson, William Robinson and Sam Bickett from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's Ho Chi Minh and Hong Kong offices will address these issues as well as provide guidance on steps companies operating in Vietnam and Southeast Asia can take to mitigate the risks associated with greater regulator vigilance.



## **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

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.



## 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., Officiance, 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



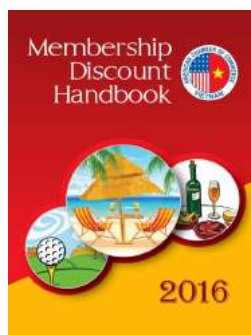
## AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

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](#))*

## News and Issues



### Vietnam's National Assembly ratified agreement on visa reciprocity

Under the bilateral agreement, based on an exchange of diplomatic notes, Vietnam will issue one-year, multiple-entry visas to U.S. citizens, as the U.S. issues one-year, multiple-entry visas to Vietnamese citizens planning temporary visits to the U.S. for business or tourism.



### Growth engines and development traps

Transitioning to a 'knowledge-based economy', which presumably means an economy in which the share of income earned from human capital is high and rising, is a worthy goal. Unfortunately, many of the countries that talk loudest about the need to transition to a knowledge-based economy are the most resistant to educational reform.

Indicator	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
ASEAN AmChams Business Outlook Survey	48%	47%	47%	48%	48%	48%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
The Number of U.S. Businesses	36%	42%	39%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%
Company Size	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
Employees	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
Year of Founding	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
ASEAN Economic Framework	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
Local Economic Framework	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
Local Education	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
The Government's Ability to Launch	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%
ASEAN Local Law	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%

## ASEAN AmChams Business Outlook Surveys

For more than a decade, the ASEAN AmChams Business Outlook Survey has been a key barometer of U.S. business sentiment. Executives from American and foreign enterprises as well as thought leaders from governments, academia, and non-government organizations across ASEAN rely on the survey to understand opportunities and challenges for American businesses across the region. The surveys incorporate the responses of nearly 500 senior business executives representing U.S. companies in all ten ASEAN markets.



## National Assembly concerned about food safety in Vietnam

Even though Vietnam has a detailed legal framework and laws related to food safety and hygiene, the problem remains, said Le Thi Nga, deputy chairwoman of the NA Justice Committee. "Unhygienic food is causing more illnesses, lowering economic competitiveness and badly affecting the country's image," Nga said.



## U.S. firms show strong interest in Vietnam

Over 50 U.S. companies attended the "Meet the USA" conference held by Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the US Embassy to Vietnam. US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius said that he "would like to see the US become the number one investor in Vietnam," but stressed that US firms were seeking more improvements in the local business climate.



## Vietnam to win "fine flavor" cocoa status

Vietnam is to become the 2nd Asian nation to be recognized by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) as a "fine flavor" cocoa origin. Vietnam produces cocoa on more than 11,000 hectares in three cocoa-growing regions: Western Highlands, Mekong Delta, and Southeastern Region. ...



## FDI representatives concerned about Circular 23

At a recent meeting of City Leaders and FDI Business Associations, FDI investors made very candid comments about the procedures and the problems encountered when doing business in Vietnam. 63% of Japanese companies said the lack of transparency in the administration is a risk when investing in Vietnam. The Japanese Business Association (JBAH) representative said Circular 23 will hinder Japanese enterprises' plans to invest in Vietnam...



## U.S. remains the leading source of FDI

globally, according to the OECD. Data shows U.S. FDI outflows accounted for 39.5% of all OECD FDI outflows in 2013, and 37.6% of all OECD FDI outflows in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available. And over the years, U.S. has accounted for 44% of the OECD FDI "stock" by 2014. OECD FDI outward flows in 2014 were \$895.428 billion, of which U.S. FDI outward flows were \$336.935 billion, or 37.6%.



## **Sander Levin, Top House Democrat on trade, opposes TPP**

The leading House Democrat on trade policy said he opposes the TPP, underscoring the hostile political environment. He said he doesn't support the TPP in its current form because it contains insufficient provisions to protect labor, lacks binding rules to prevent currency manipulation, and could ease the movement of the auto industry from his home state of Michigan to Mexico.



## **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



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