



TET Lunar New Year; TPP Signing Ceremony; Congressional Outlook for TPP

FEATURES



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!



TPP signing on Feb 4; "... beginning of the next phase for TPP"

"After five years of negotiation, signing the TPP is an important milestone in our efforts to set high-standard rules of the road in the Asia Pacific region, and to deliver an agreement that will benefit American workers, farmers and businesses," said USTR Michael Froman. The TPP Ministers' Statement said ""The signing ... is the beginning of the next phase for TPP. ... our respective domestic processes.."



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.



Is it too late for Congress to vote on TPP in 2016?

In the announced schedule for the House of Representatives in 2016, there are only 59 "legislative days" after May 18, when the ITC Report on the impact of the TPP on at the U.S. economy is due to be released. This does not preclude Congress acting faster, but it does shift power from the White House to Congressional leadership. If this Congress runs out the clock and the TPP has not passed both House and Senate, the process would die and have to restart in 2017.



U.S. FDA issues warning letters to seafood processors / importers

Seafood processors without compliant seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point plans and dairy farms that sold animals that had illegal drug residues were among some the first warning letters released in 2016 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA has the power to detain the company's shipments at the U.S. border unless the issues are addressed in a timely manner.



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



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**.



Tet Reunion Dinner Buffet @ The Grill 5 - 13 February 2016

Celebrate your family reunion to welcome to the Year of The Monkey. Enjoy a sumptuous traditional Tet and authentic Vietnamese delicacies, Yee Shang, fresh seafood and homemade sweets.

VND 690,000++ including one drink

Price is subject to 5% service charge and 10% VAT



Valentine's Day Dinner Buffet @ The Grill 14 February 2016

Strolling band to serenade love songs, a rose and heart shape cake for each couple.

VND 900,000++/person (Free flow of Valentine wine cocktail, beer and soft drinks)

Price is subject to 5% service charge and 10% VAT



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 few months. We encourage you to get to know and welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses. **New members in Dec, 2015 & Jan, 2016: L&E International Ltd., Sullivan, Krieger, Truong, Spagnola & Klausner, LLP, Hermes Power Investment Corporation, Steelman Partners Vietnam Co., Ltd., Night & Day Security Services Co., Ltd., Kizuna JV Corporation, 7-Eleven, Inc (Vietnam Branch), PSL Co., Ltd., QNB Rep Office in HCMC, Dai Phat Group Corporation, Saigon Asset Management, Estee Lauder (Vietnam) LLC, r-pac Vietnam Company Ltd., KKR Singapore, A&B Concepts Company Ltd., UWC Precision Engineering Co., Ltd., i-IVY, BNP Paribas Vietnam, Bates Chi & Partners Vietnam**



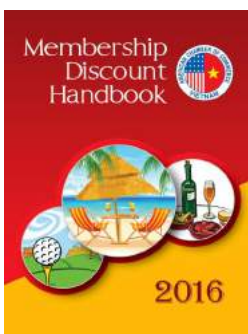
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to SEAMOC 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: 646K views/yr; 275K visitors/yr (avg. 54K / 23K visitors/views per month) and 9.5K twitter followers, 7.5K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.2k 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



Meaningful Public-Private consultations needed for competitiveness

Between 1992 and 2014 Vietnam attained a remarkable average annual GDP growth rate of 6.9%. But, the sources of growth that underpinned much of this period of economic transformation ready availability of labor and a structural shift of national production from subsistence agriculture to industry and services cannot be sustained. Since a large share of Vietnam's growth is based manufacturing and international trade, more competitive freight logistics, the backbone of import-export activity, should be among those new growth drivers.



Vietnam's economy increasingly relies on FDI exports

Vietnam's GDP is about \$198 billion (WB); exports are about \$162.1 billion. Exports from FDI factories account for \$115.1 billion, 71% of total exports. And 90% of the value of Vietnam's exports are imported components and materials. In 2009, FDI accounted for 41% of Vietnam's exports.



Walmart's Strategic Initiative to Develop Vietnamese Suppliers

Walmart and VTFA organized a "Women Owned Business Supplier Development Conference" that attracted 220 representatives from 120 companies, who learned about the "how to" and "why" of Walmart's global Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative in a morning session. And 34 of the companies had an opportunity to meet Walmart sourcing specialists in the afternoon in B2B discussions to take the first steps to becoming qualified to join Walmart's global supply chains. Walmart has 11,164 stores in 27 countries. And more than half of Walmart's stores, 6,357, are outside of the U. S. Click link to view and download the Conference e-Book, view the 282 photos, and browse the extensive media coverage.



TPP will help firms gain access to 3.2 billion middle class consumers by 2030

By 2030, the Asia-Pacific region will have 3.2 billion middle class consumers. Global middle-class spending should rise from \$21.3 trillion in 2009 to \$55.7 trillion in 2030. Asia's share should increase from 23% in 2009 to 59% in 2030. Growth of both multinationals, local companies, and the global economy will depend increasingly on emerging market consumers, especially in the Asia-Pacific and Trans-Pacific Partnership Region.



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.



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

Over 1,500 delegates are attending 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.



ANA buys stake in Vietnam Airlines

ANA's first investment in a foreign flag carrier, and the first time Vietnam Airlines receives funds from a foreign company. ANA likely was selected for its ability to snare demand for business travel between Vietnam and the Americas and elsewhere via Japan, demand that is likely to surge after the TPP takes effect. Visitor traffic from Vietnam to Japan has more than quadrupled in the past five years. Total travel between the countries has grown by around 50% annually for the past three years. ...



ITC Public Hearings on Impact of TPP, Jan 13 -15

Twenty-five witnesses, led by House Ways & Means Ranking Democrat Sander Levin, Senator Sherrod Brown, Ambassadors to the U.S. from Singapore, Japan, and Peru, provided testimony to the U.S. International Trade Commission on the "Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sectors" in three days of public hearings, Jan 13-15. The ITC Report is scheduled to be issued on May 18, 2016. ... Click the link above to view and download the written testimony.



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.



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.



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.



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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