



ITC Hearings on TPP, ANA Buys Stake in VN Airlines, Party Congress, TET

FEATURES



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.



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. ...



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!



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.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



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

Jan 27 AmCham Palooza Party at Liquid Sky Bar



LIQUID
SKYBAR
HO CHI MINH CITY

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!



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



11th Crystal ball Business Luncheon: "The Year Ahead: Executive Summary & Outlook 2016" Expert Predictions and Opportunities

Vietnam passed additional important milestones in 2015 on trade, economy, and society. And with change, brings challenges, as well. 2016 will be a very important year with an international backdrop that is also in flux:

- Party Congress in January, 2016
- Economic and market volatility likely through 2016 - China growth slowing, Fed easing, and currency devaluations in emerging markets
- Commodity supplies and demand all pointing towards price deflation
- VN's largest trading partner - the EU affected by Geo-political events in the Middle East and immigration unity
- AEC initiated/ TPP likely ratified/ VN-EU FTA progressed/ VN-South Korea FTA initiated



Night On Us (Stay 3 Pay 2 or Stay 4 Pay 3)

Enjoy 1 complimentary night with minimum of 3 or 4 nights stay
Rejuvenate and indulge in memorable experiences of a lifetime at Banyan Tree Lang Co

- Complimentary daily mini-bar (non-alcoholic)
- A minimum of 3 or 4 nights stay
- Daily breakfast at the Water Court Restaurant
- Complimentary night(s) will be granted at time of check-in



Be My Victoria Valentine

Whether it's snuggling by the fireplace in the mountains of Sapa or enjoying a sleep-in breakfast-in-bed on the beaches of Phan Thiet, our Valentine's packages are loaded with everything you'll need for an unforgettable romantic getaway including couple's spa treatments, candlelit dinners on the beach and exclusive gifts! Book now:

- [Victoria Phan Thiet Beach Resort & Spa](#)
- [Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa](#)



UNICEF announces collaboration agreement with Johnson & Johnson to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality among ethnic minorities in Viet Nam

The multinational company Johnson & Johnson and UNICEF signed a partnership agreement today to improve maternal and neonatal health, particularly focussing on the most vulnerable women and children in ethnic minority communities. The contribution will support the Ministry of Health's efforts in saving lives of mothers and children by improving the access to quality health care services, building capacity of the health staff in four disadvantaged provinces of Dien Bien, Lao Cai, Kon Tum and Gia Lai with a total population of over three million and the majority of them are ethnic minorities.



Vinhomes Central Park

With river-frontage stretching more than a kilometer over the Saigon River, Vinhomes Central Park offers a green living area in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City. The apartment buildings in Vinhomes Central Park are a magnet for many buyers due to their high-quality infrastructure system, high yield potential, and the prestigious name of the investor Vingroup - which has a multitude of projects in major cities nationwide. The brand Vinhomes was recently assessed as the most valuable brand in Vietnam by Brand Finance, a London-based brand valuation and strategy consultancy firm.

Contact us @ hotline 0919 686 737 or email residentialsales.vietnam@cbre.com for more information.



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 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



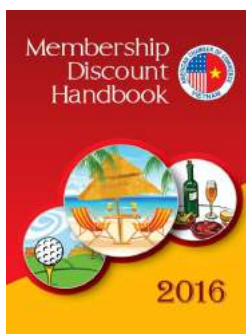
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to [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



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.



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.



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.



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.

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