

500 Startups launches \$10mm Fund, NA vote on 7 laws, Engineering Education, APBO 2016

FEATURES



500 Startups launches \$10 million Vietnam-focused fund

as the Silicon Valley venture capital firm founded by Dave McClure backs more of Vietnam's tech startups. E-commerce, language-learning and price comparison startups will be among the first companies to get seed funding and the firm plans to invest in as many as 150 companies, providing checks of as much as \$250,000. ...



13th National Assembly to vote on 7 laws at 11th and final meeting

Mar 21 - Apr 9. The seven include the Law on Information Access; revised Law on Signing, Joining and Implementing International Treaties; revised Press Law; the Law on Child Protection, Care and Education (revised); Pharmacy Law (revised); draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to articles of Law on Value Added Tax, Law on Special Consumption Tax, Law on Tax Management; and revised Law on Import and Export Tariffs.



Stanley Furniture to build dedicated factory in Binh Duong

based on a strategic alliance with a Vietnam furniture manufacturer, Starwood Manufacturing. The purpose-built, 150,000 sq. ft. plant, which will employ 500, will rely on Stanley Furniture's manufacturing know-how, and help Stanley achieve better long-term control over its sourcing in Asia. Currently Stanley produces at 10 factories in Indonesia and Vietnam.



Asia-Pacific Business Outlook Conference, Apr 18-19, 2016

North America's premier event for business leaders who want to expand their trade and investment in the Asia/Pacific region. The USC Marshall School of Business and the U.S. Department of Commerce have been working together on APBO since 1988 to help exporters and investors take advantage of tremendous opportunities and overcome challenges in the constant changing economies. APBO is a comprehensive networking and learning experience that provides business leaders with the contacts and the latest, relevant, valuable information ... focused, organized and distilled into two days.



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



AETNA Committed To Vietnam Healthcare Insurance Market

AETNA Insurance Group & Bao Viet Vietnam Corporation is selected by the US Consulate as the exclusive sponsor of "Promoting Innovation" conference hosted by the US Consulate and Forbes Vietnam, attracting 250 delegates, including policy makers, young entrepreneurs CEOs from large corporations with foreign investment in Vietnam.



Ekocenter in Viet Nam

A Community project initiated by the Coca-Cola company promotes the partnership between public and private sector organizations across the globe. The first EKO CENTER in Vietnam, also the first in Asia, leverages collaboration between local People's Committee, Women's Union, and Coca-Cola Vietnam. The objective is to promote the community support on Water, Women, and Well-being.



ACCA Career Fair 2016 - 360° Success

360° Success is a professional career expo for finance-accounting-banking-investment sector hosted by ACCA [The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants] where approximately 50 leading multi-national companies recruit the best candidates, exhibit and promote their brand and attendance of 1,000 young and passionate finance professionals who are desired to develop their career paths in finance/accounting/banking/investment sector.



Attractive Early Bird Deals to U.S. from Ho Chi Minh 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.



HR COMMITTEE

Mar 30 Employment & Labor Law Update - What is new for 2016?

Experts from Baker & McKenzie and Santa Fe Relocation Services will present on updates to labour legislation over the last year, and provide a special focus session on the expatriate mobility to Vietnam especially with new Decree No. 11, coming into effect on 1 April 2016. The last year has introduced significant changes to Vietnam's labour laws, which will impact how business is conducted in Vietnam. Recent legislative changes have resulted in increased costs to employers, such as the increased regional and general minimum wages, the changed definition of "salary" to calculate social insurance contributions and the introduction of paternity leave.



ICT COMMITTEE

Apr 5 Tech Start-Up Shark Tank - We've got the money, why should we invest in you?

Investors for tech startups in Vietnam want to invest lots of money, and lots of startup founders are looking for cash. Yet investors say "no" 95 times (or more) out of 100. What's the problem? Join us and hear from investors to learn the most common challenges they see in startups and how founders can overcome those challenges to get the money. Be one of 3 tech start-ups who get the opportunity to give a stand up (no props or slide ware please) pitch in the Shark Tank and if you're lucky, score some investment cash!



Apr 5 Trans-Pacific Partnership: An Insider's Look at Prospects for U.S. Approval in 2016

Mr. Nelson Cunningham, President and Co-founder of McLarty Associates, Former Special Advisor to Former President Clinton will provide an insider's look into the 2016 U.S. presidential election and the TPP. Please join us for this exclusive round table lunch discussion.



Vietnam Engineering Education Conference, Apr 14-15, 2016

will explore "industry-academic collaborations" that drive curricular innovation, create high-quality engineering graduates, drive research and technology. Join the conversation this April 14-15, 2016 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



Apr 27 AmCham Palooza Party at Pullman Saigon Centre

AmCham will continue its series of monthly informal networking events at the coolest nightspots in Ho Chi Minh City. The monthly Palooza Party is a platform to develop new friendships, networking opportunities and information exchange. People from all age groups are welcome to attend - there's no age limit, you just have to be young at heart! Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring your business cards!

Dress code: Business Casual

The AmCham Palooza is a popular group that holds networking events and happy hours regularly to increase communication amongst membership and expats



October 3-7 - Vietnam Big Build 2016

Habitat for Humanity Vietnam is hosting a big build event in Phu Tho province, Northern Vietnam, from October 3-7, 2016. This event will bring together 300+ international volunteers, government partners and media to build 25-30 homes for low income families. HFHV is looking for strong corporate sponsors to join us in transforming lives, building hope and homes.



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 Feb & Mar 2016:

An Huy B.T. Co, Arkansas State University, Pacific Cross, California Southern University, Duffy Agency, Harvey Law Group, Tan Khoa Co., AVIS Vietnam, Hotel Nikko Saigon, McLarty Associates, Minh Hoang Garment Co., Ltd., Officience, Rentokil Initial Vietnam, I am Dream Catcher Ltd.



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.



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 9.7K twitter followers, 7.9K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.3k 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



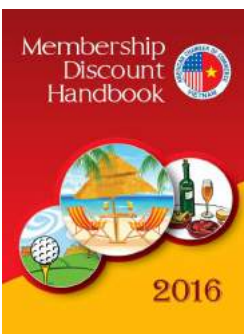
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to 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](#))

News and Issues



People's Committee Vice Chairman Liem Meets AmCham Leaders

on Mar 7 to discuss and resolve issues facing AmCham companies in the fields of taxation, visas, import/export paperwork, linking Vietnam firms to global supply chains, education for "work-ready" graduates, and infrastructure.



World Bank Group President - "Vietnam 2035" Report

The **Vietnam 2035** report is a very important, aspirational document, for Vietnam and also for the World Bank Group. The report defines long-term aspirations and proposes a program of reforms to reach these ambitions: (1) economic growth with environmental sustainability; (2) equity and social inclusion; and (3) the Government's capacity and accountability. [Tiếng Việt](#)



Vietnam 2035: Towards Prosperity, Creativity, Equity, and Democracy

Vietnam now aspires, by the year 2035, to modernity, industrialization, and a higher quality of life - aspirations that stand on three major pillars: economic prosperity, balanced with environmental sustainability; equity and social inclusion; and state capacity and accountability. The Vietnam 2035 report - a joint undertaking by experts from Vietnam and the World Bank - evaluates Vietnam's possibilities and options in this endeavor.



VN companies have limited success joining global supply chains

"Vietnam has been extremely successful in attracting FDI and benefiting from significant export growth from FDI factories, but Vietnamese enterprises have had limited results in participating directly in that success. More than two-thirds of Vietnam's exports are from FDI factories, and the cost of imported materials and components accounts for about 90% of that."



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.



World Bank: Macroeconomic Implications of TPP

The benefits of the TPP mostly derive from reductions in non-tariff-based measures (e.g., streamlining of administrative procedures) and regulatory measures that benefit services. The benefits are likely to materialize slowly but should accelerate toward the end of the projection period. The slow start results from the gradual implementation of the agreement and the lag required for benefits



TPP could boost VN exports by 30%, FDI by 14%, GDP by 8%

New assessments based on the published TPP text estimate that Vietnam will be the greatest beneficiary of the TPP with exports up 30%; FDI up 14%; and GDP up 8% by 2030 over the "baseline scenario" without TPP.



EU-VN Free Trade Agreement now available online

It allows all interested stakeholders to become fully conversant with its content well in advance of the ratification processes both in the EU and in Vietnam. The text will be subject to a legal review to verify its consistency and ensure that all provisions are formulated in a legally-sound manner. It will then be translated into all EU languages as well as into Vietnamese before being signed and ratified by both parties.



Vietnam on board with EU car rules in EU-VN FTA

The agreement should make it easier for European firms to sell vehicles in Vietnam but more difficult for American. The EU-VN FTA includes a commitment that cars sold in Vietnam should follow "international vehicle regulations." The commitment also covers parts for these vehicles and also car parts also used in minibuses (of up to 5 tons) and in commercial trucks.



TPP & New Developments in Global Trade: Labor and Environment

More than 1,000 persons attended the Feb 16, 2016 Baker & McKenzie global webinar, which featured topics such as the TPP's Environmental Chapter, Labor Chapter, Investor-State Dispute Settlement. Click the link to view the powerpoint presentation on Labor and Environmental Implications for Businesses.



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.



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