



TPP 90-day notice of intent to sign, NZ offers to host signing, ITC Public Hearing re TPP

FEATURES



Vietnam's Lead TPP Negotiator to speak at HR Forum in HCMC, Dec 8

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Quoc Khanh, Vietnam's Lead TPP Negotiator, will be the keynote speaker at the most anticipated HR event of the year: Vietnam HR Awards Forum 2015 - WORK THE MIX. The forum, which will be held on December 8th in Ho Chi Minh City, is the most senior gathering of CEOs and HR leaders across Vietnam. Vietnam HR Awards Forum 2015 is by invitation only. Please submit your registration request at: www.vietnamhrawards.com



Letter: 90-day notice of intention to enter into the TPP Agreement

"Consistent with Section 6(a)(1)(A) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-26, Title I; the "Trade Priorities Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intention to enter into a free trade agreement, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement."



NZ offers to host TPP signing ceremony in first half of 2016

The leaders of the 12 TPP countries met at a meeting on the sidelines of the APEC Summit. After the meeting, NZ Prime Minister John Key told reporters New Zealand has offered to host the formal TPP signing ceremony, which is likely to take place in the first half of 2016. The signing would be attended by the TPP ministers.



ITC Public Hearing on TPP on Jan 13; Report to be issued on May 18

Following receipt on Nov 5, 2015 of a request from the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the U.S. International Trade Commission has instituted an investigation: "Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sectors," under section 105(c) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, for the purpose of assessing the likely impact of the Agreement on the U.S. economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors and the interests of U.S. consumers.



U.S. Congress, business groups study TPP as 90-day clock ticks

The TPP is facing stiff opposition from many Democrats and unexpected resistance from Republicans. One Republican leadership aide said TPP needs a long, thorough review by Congress, calling it a "complicated, lengthy deal." Many farm lobby groups have come out in support, but other business groups are still mulling the fine print. The ability of business groups to reach consensus on the agreement has been made more difficult as tobacco, pharmaceutical, automobile and financial services firms have expressed disappointment with the outcome.



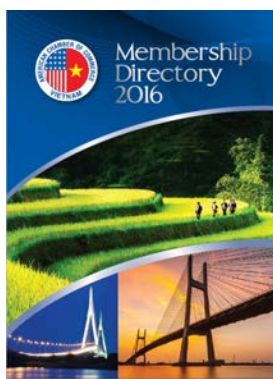
TPP Entry into Force - Article 30.5

"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 ..."



FDA Announces new food safety rules for imports

An estimated 48 million people (1 in 6 Americans) get sick each year from food-borne diseases. About 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die. Over the past few years, high-profile outbreaks related to various foods, from spinach to peanut products, have underscored the need to make continuous improvements in food safety. The U.S. FDA took major steps to prevent food-borne illness by finalizing rules implementing the bipartisan Food Safety Modernization Act that establish enforceable safety standards for produce farms and make importers accountable for verifying that imported food meets U.S. safety standards.

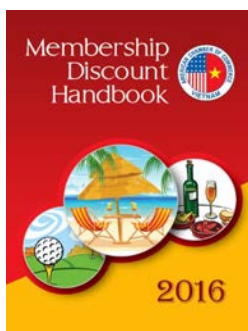


RENEW your Membership & update your company profile in 2016 AmCham Membership Directory - published in April 2016

AmCham is pleased to invite you to renew your membership in 2016 and update your company profile for printing in the 2016 AmCham Membership Directory.

As you plan your marketing activities, be sure to consider our **2016 AmCham Membership Directory**. Click [HERE](#) for Publication's features and Advertising Rates.

*Free advertisement on [AmCham Website](#) will be applied for ad booked and paid before **December 15, 2015**. Do not miss this unique chance to have your brand/ products/ services posted free of charge in one of the top foreign business association websites in Vietnam.*



2016 AmCham Discount Program

We are now working on the **2016 AmCham Discount Program**, if you would like to promote your BRAND widely to all members, join the program by contacting [Ms. Sam Hoang](#)

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.

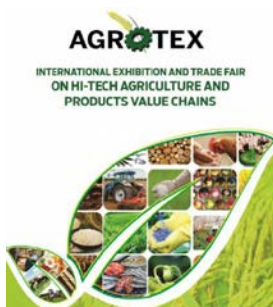
(Members present their AmCham Membership Card to receive special, privileged discounts offered by AmCham Discount Partners. A listing of discount offers is available in the annual Membership Discount Handbook (hardcopy) and on the AmCham website at [HERE](#))

Thank you to New Vendors: Diamond Sea Hotel Hotels & Resorts; Moc Huong Spa Beauty & Spa; Aroma Beach Resort Hotels & Resort; Cole Haan Fashion; Sorae Sushi Restaurants & Bars; Momo Paradise



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



Dec 2, International Exhibition and Trade Fair on Hi-Tech Agriculture and Products Value Chains

In order to enhance the application of scientific and technological advances in production, diversify products, improve the added value of agricultural products and develop Vietnam's agriculture towards modern, effective, sustainable trend that based on the country's economic and social development strategy during the period of 2011-2020, and to support businesses to exhibit their products, promote and co expand business cooperation with partners, within the framework of the project "Agro-Industrial cluster development through small and medium enterprise promotion in agricultural value chains" 2015, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) in cooperation with Can Tho City People's Committee, Vietnam Business Association in Japan, International Exhibition and Trade Fair Center in Can Tho, Vietnam Japan Interface Advertisement Joint Stock Company and Ky Nguyen Advertising and Events Organization Joint Stock Company jointly organize the International Exhibition and Trade Fair on Hi-Tech Agriculture and Products Value Chains" Agrotex 2015.



Tue, Dec 8 Do I Stay or Do I Go? Tax, Legal & Financial Considerations for US Taxpayers

Does US Expatriation Make Sense?

FATCA has made it very difficult for US persons abroad to stay tax compliant, to invest in a tax efficient manner and to reach their financial goals. Join Jeremy Stobie, CPA, Michael Dye, Esq. and Ann Marie Regal, CFP as they discuss the pros and cons of retaining or giving up US Citizenship.



Wed, Dec 9 21st Annual General Meeting and Members' Night

In accordance with Article IV of the AmCham Charter, the Annual General Meeting of the Ho Chi Minh City Chapter will be held on Wed, Dec 9, beginning at 6:00pm, followed by a reception for the General Membership. We will conduct the following important business: (1) Report of the Chapter's Board of Governors on Activities in 2015; (2) Report of the previous years' accounts; (3) election to the Board of Governors (by secure online voting between on or about Nov 21 and Dec 9).



Sun, Dec 13 3rd Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa

Get ready and excited to once again to see Santa and welcome our friends from Hy Vong School for Hearing Impaired Children in HCMC at the 3rd Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa. Tickets were sold out!!!



Dec 28 Workshop: Application of the Social Insurance Law 2014

One full day workshop organized by NVM Group will focus on:

- The regulation on wage fund for contributing to Social Insurance from Jan 01st 2016 and from Jan 01st 2018
- The entitlement to benefits of short-term Social Insurance: sickness, maternity...
- The entitlement to benefits of long-term Social Insurance: lump-sum allowance, pension ...
- Procedure and process regulated by the Law of Social Insurance: report, contribution, inspection and penalty.



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 Oct: Viability Health Services Inc., Axon Active Vietnam Ltd.**



AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

AIM, Santa Fe Relocations, and United Airlines & ANA have recently joined AmCham Corporate Partnership as Bronze Sponsors. Thank you all for your support.

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: 600K+ views/year (70K+ in Oct 2015),

270K+ visitors/year (28K+ in Oct 2015) ... and 9.3K twitter followers, 7.2 K 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

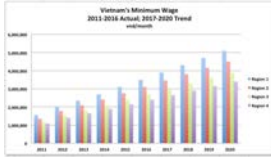
News and Issues



Blood Donation Day at the InterContinental Nha Trang

More than 300 participants of 15 hotels, restaurants and Khanh Hoa University in Nha Trang will donate blood to help patients in Khanh Hoa-Vietnam at the Grand Ballroom of InterContinental Nha Trang hotel on Monday, 30 November 2015.

This is the third Blood Donation Day held by the leadership of Nha Trang Destination Marketing Organization (NTDMO) and Vietnam Red Cross in 2015.



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.



TPP to be submitted to U.S. Congress in first half of 2016?

"I expect that, after the American people and Congress have an opportunity for months of careful review and consultation, Congress will approve it, and I'll have the chance to sign it into law," Obama said in an op-ed posted. Administration officials have indicated they would consult closely with congressional leaders on the exact timing of a vote. But they have begun taking steps that could clear the way for action in the first half of 2016.



\$300 million to support U.S.-ASEAN agricultural trade

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announces the availability of the \$300 million credit guarantees for sales of U.S. agricultural commodities for export to Southeast Asia in 2016.



China is a non-market economy: nine steel associations

"The global steel industry is currently suffering from a crisis of overcapacity and the Chinese steel industry is the predominant global contributor to this problem. There is almost 700 million metric tons of excess steel capacity globally today. China's overwhelmingly state-owned and state-supported steel industry has an overcapacity ranging from 336 to 425 million metric tons. This situation has resulted in record levels of steel exports from China to the rest of the world."



AmCham Supplier Day 2015

AmCham Vietnam organized the 2nd Supplier Day (November 18th, 2015) to support our manufacturing members to expand the list of qualified local suppliers in Vietnam. The event this year is even more critical for both manufacturers and local suppliers in Vietnam under the TPP where localization rate will be one of the main conditions for goods in order to receive tax benefit from TPP. Click the link above for information.



Vietnam livestock industry needs complete overhaul to cope with TPP

The Vietnamese livestock sector will be severely affected thanks to its small scale of operations, high production costs, and the failure to meet international food safety standards, the minister elaborated. Domestically produced beef may fail to compete with products from Australia and New Zealand, the world's leading exporters of the meat, whereas Vietnam's beef and poultry are also less competitive compared to those of Canada and the U.S.



TPP Text Made Public

The TPP text was made public on TPP member countries web sites. There are 1,121 pages in the English language including the preamble and the 30 chapters, but not including the market access schedules and the 58 side letters between the US and our partners. Pls click the link above for the text and the following link for [FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions](#).



Hiep Dien Doi Tax Xuyen Thai Binh Duong (TPP)

Side letters between the US and Vietnam (Vietnamese) | (English)



Senate Finance Committee Chairman remarks on TPP

In a speech on the Senate floor, Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said, "The United States only has one change to negotiate, consider, and implement the TPP. We have to get it right." The negotiating objectives we included in our TPA law aren't just pro forma; they aren't suggestions or mere statements of members' preferences. They represent the view of the bipartisan majority in Congress. Senator Hatch has laid out three criteria for deciding whether to support the TPP. First, he said, the agreement must be balanced and meet the U.S. negotiating objectives established under TPA. Second, the administration needs to prove to Congress that



AmCham Scholarship 2015 . 15th Anniversary

AmCham Scholarship 2015 TIMELINE - Quick Summary We, 20 May Tech Info Session. Mo, 17 Aug Application form opening. Sa, 05 Sep AmCham Scholarship Info Session. Sa, 26 Sep Application Deadline of Group 1. Sa, 03 Oct Application Deadline of Group 2. Sa, 17 Oct Screening Results * English Test Schedule. Sa, 24 Oct English Test. Sa, 31 Oct English Test Results * Ability Test Schedule. Sa, 07 Nov Ability Test (SHL Test). Sa, 14 Nov Results of Ability Test (SHL Test). Mo, 16 Nov Schedule for Interviews. Sa, 28 Nov Interview Day. Sa, 05 Dec Award Ceremony.



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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