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## Minimum Wage 2016, EU-VN Free Trade Agreement, 20th Anniversary Celebration

### FEATURES



#### National Wage Council members discuss minimum wage 2016

This year the economy has improved but the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) proposed a minimum salary hike of around 10% and this is unacceptable, Mai Duc Chinh, vice chairman of the Vietnam General Confederation of Labor (VGCL), said before he walked out of the meeting.



#### VCCI defends proposed 10% limit on minimum wage hike

VCCI proposed 6 ~ 7%, and in an Aug 6 statement said that 10% is the highest level that enterprises could endure to ensure their survival and sustainable development. If the minimum wage is increased by 10% next year, enterprises costs will increase by 17-18% due to increased wages, insurance premiums and labor union fees for employees.



#### EU, Vietnam sign free trade agreement in principle

but more detailed negotiations of technical issues, final legal texts, translations and approval by the Council and European Parliament mean the agreement will not come into effect until late 2017 or early 2018, The EU-VN FTA will remove nearly all tariffs on trade and should "provide significant new opportunities for companies on both sides, by increasing market access for goods and services."



#### Secretary Kerry celebrates 20 years

since Vietnam and the United States normalized relations in July 1995. He met with the General Secretary, President, Foreign Minister, Education Minister, Fulbright University students. Young ASEAN Leaders and others on Fri, Aug 7 in Hanoi.



#### Stay a Night On Us a Banyan Tree Lăng Cô, 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 the awe-inspiring sanctuary and look forward to a time of pampering and relaxation.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



## September 18-20 AmCham Fall Weekend at Angsana Lang Co

Join other AmCham members and guests in a networking weekend, with Ambassador's Roundtable discussion of key issues in Vietnam-U.S. trade and investment, and outlook for 2016. Three days/two nights including room at special rates for AmCham group; buffet breakfasts; Fri Welcome Cocktail Reception; Sat Afternoon Roundtable with Ambassador, Consul General, and U.S. Mission Key Officers, followed by Evening Cocktails and Gala Dinner with scrumptious cuisine and fine wines, not to mention the breath-taking sunset over the bay. **REGISTER NOW** for this stimulating weekend, with optional activities including friendly golf, excursion, spa, and simple relaxation. Click here for [Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



## InterContinental Danang - Where World Leaders Meet

**A meeting offer wish bespoke option tailor-made to suit you.**

Our new Meeting Options program allows you to fully customize your next event to suit your needs. You will not only benefit from our exceptional base package but can also choose an additional bespoke option to make your meeting truly unique with all exquisite facilities.



## 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](http://www.koreanair.com)



## ANA and United Airlines Introduce 'Asia Joint Venture Simple' Program to Reward SME Business Travelers

On 09 Jun, 2015 - All Nippon Airways (ANA) and United Airlines launched the Joint Venture (JV) Simple program, a corporate travel program that aims to support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) based in Vietnam when their employees travel on business. Through the JV Simple program, SMEs will enjoy discounts on air travel originating from Vietnam to destinations in North, Central and South America. The program gives SMEs in these countries access to a comprehensive trans-Pacific network through United and ANA that connects to over 227 destinations in the US as well as Central and South America, enabling SME employees to enjoy far more convenient travel. SME travelers will receive additional benefits on United such as premier status, lounge access and upgrades and, like any other customers, they can earn award miles by joining ANA's Mileage Club or United's MileagePlus frequent flyer program. Contact our local JV Sales team HIRAKAWA san at [hi.hirakawa@ana.co.jp](mailto:hi.hirakawa@ana.co.jp) & Alice Tu at [alice.tu@united.com](mailto:alice.tu@united.com).



## Sponsorship Opportunity - AmCham Scholarship 2015

The AmCham Scholarship, as a distinguished CSR program from AmCham Vietnam to develop high quality human resources for member companies, is going to celebrate its 15th Anniversary in 2015, since 2001, AmCham Vietnam has awarded scholarship to 628 students from 11 leading universities in Ho Chi Minh City. And this year, 50 Scholarships and 30 "Honorable Mentions" are expected to give to applicants selected by an extensive, three-month assessment process. You are welcome to visit us at the [Scholarship Mainpage](#) as well as the Sponsorship Opportunity available [HERE](#) or contact [AmCham Programs](#)



## Wed, Aug 26 AmCham Palooza Party at Atrium Bar, Renaissance Riverside Hotel Saigon

Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring many of your business cards.

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. People from all age groups are welcome to attend.



## PRIZES needed for AmCham upcoming events: Fall Weekend, Members Night, Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot, Annual General Meeting, and Governors Ball

We are seeking PRIZES for our upcoming signature events in last quarter of 2015

- **Fall Weekend in Lang Co**, September 18-20
- **Members Night & Meet the US Consulate General**, October 15
- **Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament**, November 26
- **Annual General Meeting & Members Night**, December 9
- **Governors Ball**, December 12

Your support is highly appreciated and well-recognized before and during events. Prizes can be air tickets, hotel stay, dining vouchers, premium items, or any prizes or items that are convenient for you. If you interest, please contact **Ms. Lily Nguyen**, Events Manager for further details and discussion.



## 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 **Mimi Pham** 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 welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses. **New members in July:** Avaya, Hellmann Worldwide Logistics, Le & Tran Attorneys At Law, Wahl Clipper.



## AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

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](http://www.amchamvietnam.com): 600,000+ views/year, 300,000+ visitors/year plus 8.9k twitter followers, 6.4k facebook fans, 4.9k LinkedIn followers.
- Announcement in Weekly Email: 4,500+ AmCham company representatives and subscribers.
- **AmCham Companies are offered 3 complimentary announcements in 2015.**
- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Directory

- Print advertising in AmCham Membership Discount Handbook
- Advertising on AmCham Discount Online



## AmCham Member Discounts Program

The AmCham Member Discounts Program is provided as one of our Membership Benefits. It serves as a mutually beneficial opportunity for both AmCham Members and AmCham Discount Partners. 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.

### New Vendors:

Binh An Village Resort Dalat; Chanh Bistro, Chanh Services Company Limited, Chi Hoa Culture, El Gaucho, Grand Square Convention Centre & Restaurants, Hoang Yen Group, Hotel Royal Hoi An, Kokois, Le Terroir, M2C Bistro & Café, Princess D'An Nam Resort & Spa, Seventeen Saloon, Tandoor, The Earth Villa, Vietstar Resort & Spa, Phu Yen, Vinpearl Group, Vinpearl Premium Nha Trang Bay.

## News and Issues Updates



### TPP Ministers may meet again in Aug or Nov to conclude agreement

How long might it take to wrap up the negotiations? Some predict a TPP signing ceremony in conjunction with the Nov. 18-19 meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) in the Philippines. Japanese Economy Minister Akira Amari has suggested that TPP ministers should meet again on the sidelines of the Aug. 22-25 meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Philippines.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

### FAQ: How to determine U.S. import duty rates

CBP makes the final determination of what the correct rate of duty is, not the importer. The **Harmonized Tariff System (HTS)** provides duty rates for virtually every item that exists. The HTS is a reference manual that is the size of an unabridged dictionary. Experts spend years learning how to properly classify an item in order to determine its correct duty rate.



### FAQ: What is the potential impact of TPP on Vietnam's economy?

The most authoritative study was done by Professor Peter Petri of Brandeis University and the Peterson Institute. The Study will be updated as soon as the TPP has been finalised and made public, so that the exact terms will be known.



### TPP: no deal in Hawaii, bilateral talks to be resumed

"The sad thing is, it's 98% concluded," Australia's trade minister, Andrew Robb, said as trade ministers prepared to leave on Friday. "While my first reaction was disappointment, I also realized that no deal meant that there wasn't yet a deal that could make it through the U.S. Congress," said a U.S. business stakeholder at the TPP negotiations in Hawaii.



### U.S. Secretary of State to visit Vietnam, Aug 6-8

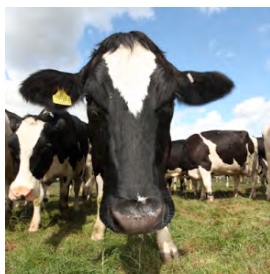
In Hanoi, Aug 6-8, he will meet with senior Vietnamese officials, including Deputy PM and FM Pham Binh Minh to discuss bilateral and regional issues. He will also participate in an event marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of U.S.-VN diplomatic relations.

### 7-Eleven to enter Vietnam

7-Eleven®, the world's largest convenience retailer, with 56,400 stores worldwide, has signed a



master franchise agreement with Seven System Vietnam Co., Ltd., to develop and operate 7-Eleven® stores in Vietnam. 7-Eleven's entry aims to enhance the convenience-shopping experience for Vietnamese customers, and contribute to modernising small retailers in the world's 13th most populous country. The new master franchisee plans to construct 7-Eleven stores, convert existing locations to the 7-Eleven brand supported by enhanced infrastructure, and eventually franchise operations to local entrepreneurs.



### Dairy differences delay TPP

The president of the Dairy Farmers Canada blamed New Zealand for not accepting the offer on the table. "New Zealand is being very obstinate ... I am really surprised that this late in the end game a country like New Zealand would not put a little water in tis wine," said Wally Smith, Dairy Farmers of Canada President.



### Positive TPP impact on Vietnam's textile and apparel sector

As the TPP negotiations near conclusion, both domestic and foreign businesses have begun making upstream investments to take advantage of the preferential treatment that Vietnamese apparel exporters will enjoy under the TPP. Not only will Vietnam's apparel sector gain preferential access to the U.S. market, but it will also be able to capture greater value-added in the supply chain. Tariffs on its apparel exports to the U.S. will eventually drop to near zero from the current 17%.



### FDI continues to flow into Vietnam's textile sector

Vietnam's textile and apparel sector continues to be a magnet for FDI. While FDI has fallen in the first six months of 2015, it rose sharply in textiles and apparel. At least \$1.2 billion out of \$5.58 billion worth of FDI went into the textile sector. Several domestic and foreign-invested cotton projects are rushing to begin operating in anticipation of competing across borders after FTAs go into effect.



### India jumps on the TPP bandwagon in Vietnam

It is important for Indian companies to take the initiative on the TPP trade deal, which will offer a boost to Vietnam's textile and apparel industry," said Vinod K. Ladia, chairman of the Synthetic and Rayon Export Promotion Council of India. India is the world's second largest supplier of textile and apparel materials, second only to China, so the FDI also means guaranteed supply for Vietnamese enterprises, according to VITAS.



### 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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