



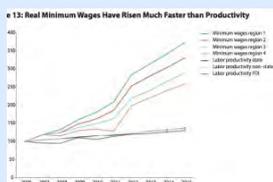
Minimum Wage 2016, Congressional Role in TPP Approval, Angsana Lang Co

FEATURES



Minimum Wage 2016 to be decided on Sep 3 ... ?

The National Wage Council (NWC) will meet again on Sep 3, after it was unable to reach agreement in two earlier meetings in Aug. The NWC will submit a recommendation in September for the Minimum Wage 2016 adjustment to the Government for a decision, which will be implemented not less than 90 days later, on Jan 1, 2016. The range of proposals varies from 6% or 7% to 16.8%.



World Bank: Are minimum wages too high?

The World Bank's most recent update on Vietnam's economic developments concluded that (1) a high minimum wage, if enforced, will reduce formal employment; (2) outside the government sector, Vietnam's minimum wages have risen rapidly in recent years, [far] outstripping productivity growth, [which has been practically nil]; and, (3) [yes], Vietnam's private sector minimum wage is high relative to other countries.



Role of Congress in TPP Approval explained in 3 slides

The first slide explains the basis of each branch's respective constitutional authority over trade policy; the second provides a history (list) of "trade promotion authority" granted by Congress to the President starting with the 1934 "Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act" up to the 2015 "Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act" ("Trade Promoton Authority"); and the third slide is a timeline showing the process of concluding, reporting, submitting an implementing bill to Congress, the 90-day period for Congressional consideration and voting, and the notices required before the TPP enters into effect.



AmCham Fall Weekend, Sep 18 - 20, 2015, Angsana Lang Co

Annually since 2002, we have organized an off-site week-end for AmCham members and guests, with Roundtable discussion of key issues in Vietnam-U.S. relations. Good conversations and good fellowship, good golf and other relaxations, and good value. Join us for the 14th Annual AmCham Weekend.



Golf @ AmCham Fall Weekend, Sep 18 - 20, 2015

Located within the Laguna Lăng Cô integrated resort lies the Laguna Lăng Cô Golf Club, an 18-hole, par-71 championship course designed by Sir Nick Faldo. A golfing experience that can be enjoyed by the most experienced player and beginner alike, with variety for players of all levels. Hole-by-hole aerial overview with introduction by Sir Nick Faldo, a six-time Major winner,

Banyan Tree Lăng Cô and Angsana Lăng Cô host their very first Laguna Lăng Cô Marathon this year in Central Vietnam



Banyan Tree Lăng Cô and Angsana Lăng Cô in Central Vietnam will host their very first Marathon on 24-25 October 2015 - the Laguna Lăng Cô Marathon. Following the success of Laguna Phuket Marathon, its sister resort, the inaugural Laguna Lăng Cô Marathon event will be set in beautiful Lang Co, an area renowned for its pristine coastlines, lush green jungles and rugged mountain peaks. The Marathon is poised to provide memorable experiences for all participants including professional and amateur marathoners, families as well as spectators from around the world..

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



Summer Break Meeting Package - Book NOW for Special Discount

From VND 399,000++ per person per half day. Starting from now till Sep 30, 2015 *Applied for minimum booking of 10 persons.* Including complimentary Wi-fi, state-of-the-art equipment, conference guidance, on-site audio visual and technical support, no-pillar function rooms, ballroom with foyer.



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



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

On 9 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 & Alice Tu at alice.tu@united.com.



Webinar: Asia Pacific Export Controls 2015, Sep 3, 9am

The **Export Compliance Training Institute** will be hosting a webinar, Asia Pacific Export Controls 2015 for Asia on September 3, 2015 at 11:30 AM ACST, 10:00 AM Singapore/China Time. [9am Vietnam Time]. The webinar will be 1.5 hours long with 1 hour dedicated to commentary from **Jay Nash** and 30 minutes dedicated to a Q&A session.



Tue, Sep 8 Vietnam signed DTT with the USA

The signing of the Double Tax Treaty (DTT) and the negotiation of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement signals a new era in US-Vietnam relations. In this breakfast seminar, Jack Sheehan, Partner, Regional Tax Practice Group and Bernard Cobarrubias, Director, Regional Tax Practice, from DFDL will examine the role of the US-Vietnam DTT with respect to both US and Vietnamese investors.

Tue, Sep 8 Legal & VBF Liaison Committee Meeting (Members Only)

Regular monthly meeting of the committee to review upcoming events, discuss and prepare positions on key issues, laws and regulations relating to trade and investment between Vietnam and the United States.



Wed, Sep 9 Will Ho Chi Minh City become the next hotspot of the global MICE industry?

How can we benefit from the booming convention and exhibition industry in Asia? Come and join our keynote speaker and high profile panel of MICE (Meetings Incentives Conventions Exhibitions) professionals for an overview and better understanding of the economic value of the Meetings Industry for Ho Chi Minh City. Discover the latest trends of the thriving MICE business in the Asia Pacific region and discuss with our experts how Ho Chi Minh City can become an attractive destination for global meetings, events, exhibitions and conventions.



Tue, Sep 15 Development of mid-level managers: Challenges and lessons learnt for Vietnam

Organizations need a solid core - strong mid-level managers and leaders. Mid-level managers act as the chain eye between the executive level and mass at the front line. They are responsible for execution and turning senior leaders' vision for the organization into reality. Join us for an interactive discussion to uncover issues related to management training in Viet Nam and explore what works and what does not work for companies to recruit, train and retain mid-level managers. This breakfast seminar is recommended for business leaders and those responsible for training and development talents at companies.



Fri~Sun, Sep 18-20 AmCham Fall Weekend at Angsana Lang Co

Join other AmCham members and guests in AmCham's Fall 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; 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. Family-friendly, and children welcome. Click here for **Sponsorship Opportunities**



AMCHAM PALOOZA

Wed, Sep 23 AmCham Palooza Party at The Long Bar, The Reverie Saigon

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

The Palooza ... AmCham's 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.



Sponsorship Opportunity - AmCham Scholarship 2015

The AmCham Scholarship, a distinguished CSR program from AmCham Vietnam to develop high quality human resources for member companies, will celebrate its 15th Anniversary in 2015. Since its beginning in 2001, AmCham has awarded scholarships to 628 students from 11 leading universities in Ho Chi Minh City. And this year, 50 Scholarships and 30 "Honorable Mentions" will be awarded 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](#).

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

- **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 **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 welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses. **New members in August: Headhunt Vietnam, Nhat Quang Co., Mekong Capital**



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

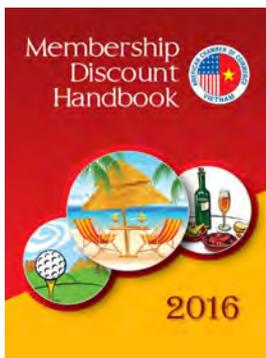
For full information on benefits of each package, please click [HERE](#) or contact **Cindy Tran**.



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: 500k+ views/year (67k in Aug 2015), 200k+ visitors/year plus 9.0k twitter followers, 6.6k facebook fans, 4.8k LinkedIn followers.
- Announcement in Weekly Email: 4.8k 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



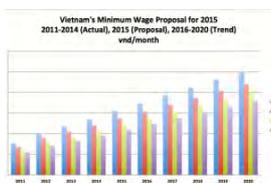
2016 AmCham Discount Program

We are now working on **2016 AmCham Discount Program**, if you would like to promote your BRAND & PICTURES 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](#))

News and Issues Updates



From the archives: Vietnam's "Minimum Wage Roadmap" to 2020

Written in August 2014, the article provides some background for the Minimum Wage 2016 discussion. MOLISA's Vice Minister said in 2014 that "the increases will be greater in 2016 and 2017." There was a "Minimum Wage Road Map," based on (1) Article 56 of the 2012 Labour Code " ... the Government will adjust the MW in order to preserve real wages;" and (2) "Party Central Committee Decision 23-KL/TW, May 29, 2012," Adjust the minimum wage more rapidly ... so that ... it will reach the level of the **Basic Needs Wage**.



Trade Promotion Authority and the Role of Congress in Trade Policy

TPA reflects decades of debate, cooperation, and compromise between Congress and the executive branch in finding a pragmatic accommodation to the exercise of each branch's respective authorities over trade policy. While early versions of fast track/TPA received bipartisan support, later renewal efforts have been more controversial. TPA lapsed from Apr 1994 to Aug 2002, and was narrowly approved in a highly partisan and close vote (215 - 212) on the 2002 TPA renewal



\$3 billion FDI to meet TPP yarn-forward rules-of-origin

The TPP has encouraged many foreign textile and garment firms to boost investments in Vietnam. The yarn-forward rule under the TPP requires that the yarns, fabrics and final garments to be exported within the TPP should be produced in the TPP member countries. So, apparel producers in Vietnam will have to use domestic material or import it from the TPP members instead of China if they want to benefit from the multilateral trade pact.



Vietnam expects September restart for TPP talks

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Tran Quoc Khanh, said that he expects TPP talks to resume in September. He made the remarks after returning from a visit to Washington, where he discussed outstanding bilateral issues with USTR officials.



Vietnam's textiles sector in the TPP

TPP negotiators made "significant progress" on textile issues at negotiations last month in Hawaii, where Vietnam placed more emphasis on getting duties eliminated immediately on nearly 1,600 apparel tariff lines rather than on rules of origin that are meant to deliver the benefits of the trade deal only to TPP countries.

Foreign firm exodus from China to Vietnam may be delayed

A Standard Chartered Bank study highlighted the fact that increasingly-competitive Vietnam is now the "best choice" for China-based investors who want to relocate their production base. But the exodus may be delayed by Vietnam's restrictions on imports of used machinery and equipment.



NZ Trade Minister Tim Groser: "autos and dairy are the two issues"



"There is a very strong shared informal understanding that the TPP has got to be done in weeks, not in months. There are essentially two sticking points: the deal on autos and the deal on dairy. And Canada is exposed both on dairy and on autos in a very , very intriguing and difficult way."

Vietnam's start-up queen ... 3rd time is a charm



Thuy Truong's third business, a social messaging app called Tappy, is her biggest success. "When you come to an event or a business venue, you can use Tappy to find and interact with people around you. Basically, it turns the venue into a virtual community to allow people to talk in groups or talk privately. Some ten months after it was launched, Tappy was acquired by Weeby, a mobile gaming technology company based in Silicon Valley, for "an undisclosed seven-figure sum." Ms. Truong now works as Weeby's director for business development in Asia.

New Zealand Minister for Trade expects TPP talks to resume in Malaysia Aug 22-25.



"There is a very, very strong shared sense that this negotiation needs to be brought to a conclusion now." The negotiations would be concluded by a series of "linked bilateral negotiations". The three outstanding issues were opening up access to dairy products, intellectual property on pharmaceuticals and the auto industry. "The upset over autos was clearly not understood until we got to the [Maui] meeting and arises directly out of this very strange process whereby the United States and Japan have reached some understandings that clearly do not accommodate Mexican and Canadian interests." The talks could resume on the sidelines of the Aug 22-25 meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers.

Still lots of work to do, but TPP is 98% done



National Foreign Trade Council Chairman Alan Wolff listed the following as final issues: dairy, sugar and rice market access; intellectual property protections for biological medicines; rules of origin for automobiles; public health exemptions for tobacco; investor-state disputes; labor; exemptions for state-owned enterprises; Internet service provider liability; and a currency side agreement. In other words, a lot of work.

Starbucks exports its first coffee from Vietnam



Vietnam is recently one of the world's top exporters of robusta coffee, but its specialty-grade arabica coffee has thrived in its mountains for more than 150 years. Now Starbucks is offering its first single-origin coffee from the country with **Starbucks Reserve® Vietnam Da Lat**. Each **Starbucks Reserve®** coffee is sourced from small lots in coffee-growing regions in Latin America, Africa and Asia Pacific, and every coffee has a signature roast profile to bring out its unique flavors. These coffees are exported to the USA, where they are roasted with care, at the **Starbucks Reserve® Roastery and Tasting Room in Seattle**, to enhance their peak flavor expression. They are available in limited supply in select Starbucks® stores or **through subscription**.

TransPacific Partnership's impact on Vietnam's economy

Herb Cochran, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce Vietnam (AmCham Vietnam), tells the Vietnam Economic Times's Hoang Thu about the TPP's impact on Vietnam's



economy. Vietnam accounted for 20% of U.S. imports from ASEAN in 2014 and could account for over 30% by 2020. Total trade between Vietnam and the U.S. could double from \$36 billion in 2014 to \$72 billion in 2020.



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.



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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