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TPP will be concluded this year, Automotive rules-of-origin a key factor

FEATURES



We can get TPP done this year. The key is to get it through Congress.

"We should not assume that because Trade Promotion Authority was approved, that we automatically are going to be able to get TPP approved ... the reason is that the politics around trade are tough."



Automotive rules-of-origin a key factor in TPP conclusion

Under existing NAFTA rules, a car can be sold in Canada, the U.S., or Mexico duty-free as long as 62.5% of it originates in one or more of the three countries. But Japan has proposed that a car with as little as 45% domestic content can be sold duty-free, and auto parts with as little as 30% domestic content.



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.



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

We had a good turn out of 59 participants, including AmCham members, spouses, significant others, children, and guests. Nice weather with sunny days and windy nights also contributed significantly to the event's success. We do hope that you enjoyed the weekend, and that you had a great time networking and relaxing with other participants. About 35 participants joined the Ambassador, Consul General and other key officers of the US Mission to Vietnam to learn about the current status and outlook for US-Vietnam relations, especially the trade and investment environment facing us, and discuss key issues and activities. Click [HERE](#) for Presentations and [HERE](#) for Photo Album.

Special thanks again to AIM and Coca-Cola® for sponsoring.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers

[Click HERE to Book Now](#)



New World Saigon Hotel Hosts Fourth Annual Golf Tournament

On 24 October 2015, New World Saigon will host their fourth annual golf tournament held at the stunning Vietnam Golf & Country Club, New World Saigon Hotel Cup 2015. Part of the Mercedes-Benz Trophy - it's the biggest amateur golf tournament in Vietnam. The hotel's tournament hosted 136 participants, 34 flights with 18 holes. To register, please contact Ms. Truong Thi Van Hong at +84 8 3829 4000 ext. 2409 or send an e-mail to hong.truong@newowrldhotels.



Mapletree Binh Duong Logistics Park, VSIP 2, Binh Duong, Vietnam

Business location is always one of the most important decisions that determine the success of every business. At Mapletree, we understand your concerns, whether you are planning to enter the attractive Vietnam market or expand your business to seize growth opportunities. Allow us to take this opportunity to introduce our logistics facilities. Developed and managed by Mapletree, a leading real estate developer from Singapore, our logistics facilities at Binh Duong are of international standards, which we are proud to be associated with attractiveness of our product.



Spa Promotion at Vinpearl Resorts - Pamper yourself with endless fun and relaxation!

Let's make your holiday an irresistible escape with our exceptional Spa package, including luxurious stay at our 5-star Vinpearl resorts in Phu Quoc, Nha Trang & Da Nang; Daily vouchers for 4 treatments at Vincharm Spa, Unlimited access into Vinpearl Land Amusement Park; Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner buffets and much more... Only from 6,199,000++ / night for 2 persons. [Learn more \(www.vinpearl.com\)](http://www.vinpearl.com)



Vietnam Total Remuneration Survey 2015 by Mercer and Talentnet Corporation

On 06th & 08th October 2015, Mercer, the leading global provider of human resource services and its associate in Vietnam, Talentnet, will publish the results of Vietnam Total Remuneration Survey 2015 at the GEM Center - Ho Chi Minh and InterContinental Hanoi Westlake. The seminars will provide essential data about salary increase rates, common allowances, bonuses, typical benefits by industry and level, as well as other information such as employee turnover rates, the most difficult jobs to attract and retain in 2015.



Survey: Research project to understand the state of internet-based attacks and defense in Vietnam

The survey should be filled out by someone familiar with the technical architecture of the website, such as a senior IT manager or IT architect.



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

Wed, 7 Oct Asia And Vietnam Rewards Trends 2015-2016



Ms Godelieve's session will provide both business leaders as well as HR professionals with the latest trends and opportunities in Total Rewards across the region. Main items would include highlights on attraction and retention, hot jobs, pay trends and changes in employee benefits, ... in Asia Pacific region.



Wed, Oct 14 Vietnam 2015 Consumer Trends

Come and join Ashish Kanchan, TNS Managing Director for is annual overview of Vietnam's economy and discover the latest trends and consumer habits which have been impacted during Vietnam cooling off period.



Thu, 15 Oct New Member Welcome and Orientation (Members only)

Join us at this Welcome and Orientation Meeting to learn how to best utilize your membership investment. This Orientation Meeting is the perfect opportunity for new members, members, and invited guests to get familiar or reacquainted with all the benefits, events and programs offered to you to help grow your business. You will hear from Executive Director, Herb Cochran on ways to get involved and participate through AmCham's three pillars of: networking, information sharing and working together to improve the business environment.



Thu, Oct 15 Members Night & Meet the U.S. Consulate General

Join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring your business cards. AmCham invites you to attend a Members Night, with networking cocktails and buffet reception. Members' spouses and guests are not only invited but also encouraged to attend with you.



Wed, Oct 21 Talent Acquisition, Retention & The New Role of Employer Brand

ManpowerGroup surveyed more than 200 job seekers about their current employment, job search preferences and motivators and found that there is a relation between the EMPLOYER'S BRANDING and COMPETITION FOR TODAY'S CANDIDATES.



**AMCHAM
PALOOZA**

Wed, Oct 28 AmCham Palooza Party at Hard Rock Cafe

Join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring 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.



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

We are seeking PRIZES for our upcoming signature events

- **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 Sep: Mainetti Vietnam Co., Ltd; DEK Technologies Vietnam Co., Ltd; Sele Profiles Ltd.; Therm - X System Vietnam Technologies; International Business Investment Consultancy; Salinda Resort**



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 9.2k twitter followers, 6.8k facebook fans, 4.9k LinkedIn followers.
- Announcement in Weekly Email: 4.8k AmCham company representatives and subscribers.

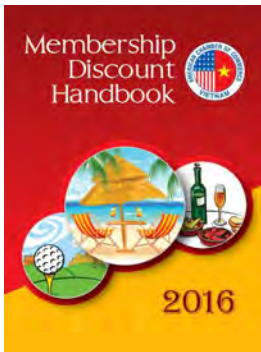
AmCham Companies are offered 3 complimentary announcements in 2015.

- 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



NZ Trade Minister: TPP will concluded this year: only 3 issues remain

As rumors swirl about the location and date of the concluding TPP negotiations, at the U.N. General Assembly in Sep, or at the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in Nov, New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser says he is 90% sure the negotiations will be completed this year. Only three issues remain to be resolved: IP in pharmaceuticals, dairy, and the auto industry.



Three Senators urge support for U.S. auto and auto parts industry in TPP

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), along with U.S. Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), urged USTR Froman to negotiate a TPP agreement that holds Japan to its commitment to phase out its tariffs in accordance with the longest staging period, use NAFTA-based rules of origin, and include provisions to remove non-tariff barriers, including currency manipulation, in a letter sent Sep 10.



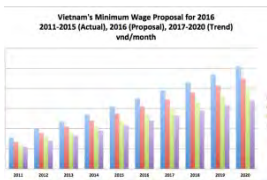
Vietnam - U.S. Double Tax Treaty (DTT): Key Features and Case Studies

Signed on July 7, 2015, the DTT and its Protocol will enter into force once ratified by the U.S. and Vietnam.



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.



Vietnam's 2016 Minimum Wage Proposal

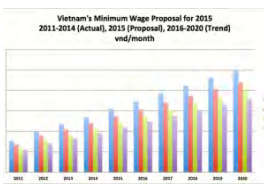
The Minimum Wage Adjustment for 2016 is about 12.4%. It will be submitted to the Government for approval at the next regular meeting, and go into effect on Jan 1, 2016. The adjustment percentage is twice forecast 2016 GDP growth (6.2%), three times CPI inflation (1.8% in 2015 and 4% in 2016), and four 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%). The proposed MW in Region 1 for 2015 would be 3.5 million vnd/month. If present trends continue, the minimum wage in Region 1 will be about 5.1 million vnd/month in 2020. For the second year in a row, the proposed adjustment is within 1% of our trend line estimate.

Vietnam's private sector minimum wage is high, 58% of median wage

According to the World Bank, a key benchmark of minimum wages is the relationship to median wages, and for Vietnam the picture differs sharply between the government and private sectors.



Vietnam's state sector wage is low by global and regional standards at around 30% of the median wage, while the private sector minimum wage is high, with the average ratio of minimum to median wage around 58%.



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**.



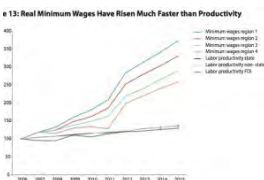
15th Anniversary AmCham Scholarship Info Session

welcomed hundreds of interested students on Sep 5 to a morning session at the Riverside Palace. In the 15th Anniversary Year, 2001 - 2015, the program will award 50 scholarships valued at vnd 10 million each and 30 scholarships valued at 4 million vnd each. Students from 12 leading universities in HCM City are eligible to apply. In addition to offering the students practical experience in application and assessment procedures that will help them transition from the world of study to the world of work, the program offers good talent acquisition opportunities for AmCham companies, who generously sponsor and support the program.



Pay increases depend on productivity - Bui Sy Loi

Bui Sy Loi, Deputy Head of the National Assembly's Social Affairs Committee, speaks to Ha Noi Moi (New Ha Noi) about salary reforms. **Will you please ex-plain why workers' average wages in Viet Nam are lower than their peers in the region and the world?** It is a universal truth that adjustment of a worker's minimum wage and their basic monthly salary depend on the economic growth rate, labour productivity and consumer price index (CPI) of the country.



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.



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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