



Season's Greetings; AmCham Scholarship 2015; Governors' Ball Prizes, Photos; TPP Vote

FEATURES



Season's Greetings

As the year 2015 draws to a close, we sincerely thank AmCham companies, members, and business associations and government partners for their friendship and cooperation during the year in our efforts to help make Vietnam the best business and investment destination in Southeast Asia. We wish you all health, happiness and prosperity in 2016, the Year of the Monkey!



Winners of 20th AmCham Governors' Ball Raffle Prizes, Silent Auction

... listed on the AmCham web site. Click the above link to see the list of winners.

Please bring your winning raffle ticket to AmCham office to claim your prize by DECEMBER 31, 2015. Unclaimed prizes after claim period expires will be used for other AmCham events.



AmCham Scholarship 2015 - List of Scholars, Photos, News Videos

The 15th Annual AmCham Scholarship Awards, with scholarships to third year and above students at universities in HCM City. Since 2001, we have awarded 705 scholarships. Many of the AmCham Scholars are now with AmCham companies. More than 120 of them have received post graduate degrees, both Master's (62) and Ph.D. (60).



AmCham Scholarship 2015 - 15th Anniversary

Highlights of the AmCham Scholarship 2001 - 2015 on YouTube video.



Photo Albums - 20th AmCham Governors' Ball & 3rd AmCham Breakfast with Santa

... posted on the AmCham web site. Click the above links to see photos taken during these two events.



An Absolute-ly Fabulous Escape to Central Vietnam

Daily golf rounds at the 18-hole Sir Nick Faldo Championship Golf Course, unlimited spa treatments by skilful therapists, and delicious spreads of Vietnamese, Asian, Seafood and International delights. Coupled with a stylish and relaxing room on a resort surrounded by amazing UNESCO Heritage Sites. What are you waiting for? Book this absolute-ly amazing

offer* at Angsana Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam from now until 30 March 2016 from just 5,200,000 VND++ per night.



Senate Majority Leader: TPP vote shouldn't come before U.S. elections

"It certainly shouldn't come before the election, and I have some serious problems with what I think it is," Senator McConnell was quoted as saying in an interview with The Washington Post. McConnell, who strongly supported Trade Promotion Authority legislation, signaled that he was undecided on how he would vote on the TPPI, but he was clear that the TPP would not pass if it were sent to Congress next spring or summer, as the administration was planning.



Enjoy a Night On Us at Banyan Tree Lang Co, Central Vietnam

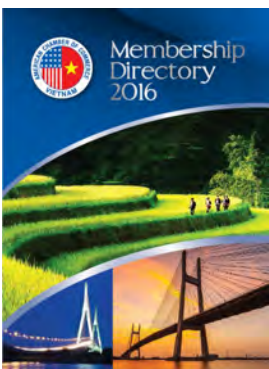
With stunning views of the East Sea and the magnificent Truong Son mountain range in the background, the tranquil and intimate Banyan Tree Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam is the perfect destination for a romantic getaway with that special someone. Enjoy a Night On Us when you book a minimum of three nights at this awe-inspiring sanctuary and look forward to a time of pampering and relaxation.



U.S. Trade Advisory Groups reports on TPP

Mostly good marks in 27 reports released by various government advisory committees representing business, agriculture and labor interests. But, as expected, representatives of labor groups, tobacco growers, auto companies and pharmaceutical firms registered their dissenting opinions on the final deal.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers

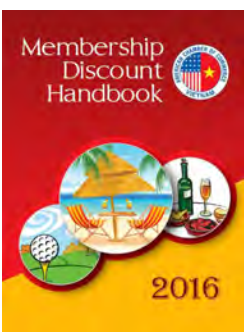


RENEW your Membership & update your company profile in 2016 AmCham Membership Directory - published in April 2016

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.

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



Book Your Year End Party at Duxton Hotel Saigon

Price from VND 550,000++ per person.
FREE dinner voucher, MCMC
November 2015 - February 2016
Price is subject to 5% service charge & 10% VAT



Have a Joyful Christmas and New Year at Eastin Grand Hotel Saigon

It's time to welcome the year ahead with celebration and cheer. Spread the joy of this occasion among your loved ones and treat them to the traditional festive culinary delights to remember. An array of Christmas and New Year temptations that you don't want to miss!



InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort Awarded The 'World's Leading Luxury Resort' Again

InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort was accredited at the Grand Final Ceremony of the World Travel Awards Worldwide Categories which was held at El Jadida, Morocco. Annually, various sectors of the tourism industry are recognised, rewarded and celebrated at the World's Travel Awards ceremony with the attendance of the industry leaders across the region. Similar to last year, the Resort received the highest votes from travel professionals and high-end tourism consumers from around the world and was honoured with the World's Leading Luxury Resort award for the second time.



Premier Grade A Office Space For Sublet

Located in: 39F, Bitexco Financial Tower, No2 Hai Trieu, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Please call 0908 047 414 (Mr. Hieu CBRE Vietnam) or email tronghieu.le@cbre.com if you are interested.



Christmas Goodies and Turkey Take Away at Hotel Equatorial Ho Chi Minh City

Are you going to a Christmas party but are not sure what to bring as a gift? Maybe you are thinking of sending a treat to a special friend this year. Why not visit our lobby Christmas bazaar and discover an extensive range of gifts and festive treats for your friends and family. A variety of Christmas hampers are available and maybe delivered with a festive greeting message to any location within Ho Chi Minh City business district.



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 Nov & Dec: 105 Construction JSC., Former Fed LLC, Estee Lauder (Vietnam) LLC, KKR Singapore, L&E International Paper Packaging Company Limited.**



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, 7.4kK 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



ITC Public Hearing Jan 13; Comments due Dec 18; Report 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.



Businesses move slowly on TPP

A major business group, the New York-based United States Council for International Business, urged Congress to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but also called on the administration to fix problems with the pact before sending it to Capitol Hill. Other groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, and Business Roundtable, haven't yet commented. One action-forcing event might be the Dec 18 deadline for the public to submit comments for the U.S. International Trade Commission's study of the agreement.



Trading Views: Debates on key issues in the TPP

"The 90-day period was established to facilitate an intensive and informed debate over the merits of TPP as negotiated, as well as the necessity for any modifications to the agreement, before the agreement is signed," said Rep. Levin. As part of that engagement, we are organizing a series of in-depth public hearings to assess the merits of the proposed agreement, zeroing in on those issues that are of particular importance or concern to us and our fellow Democratic colleagues. These sessions will help to build a full foundation of information and transparency before Congress votes on the agreement." The first debates focused on environmental, investment (including tobacco), and access to medicines.



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."



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.



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 ... "



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.



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.



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.



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.

2015 CORPORATE PARTNERS

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