



## One-year, multiple-entry visas for AmCits; Food safety concerns; New U.S. FDI in Vietnam

### FEATURES



#### Vietnam's National Assembly ratified agreement on visa reciprocity

Under the bilateral agreement, based on an exchange of diplomatic notes, Vietnam will issue one-year, multiple-entry visas to U.S. citizens, as the U.S. issues one-year, multiple-entry visas to Vietnamese citizens planning temporary visits to the U.S. for business or tourism.



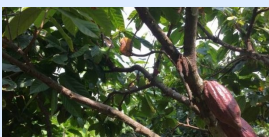
#### National Assembly concerned about food safety in Vietnam

Even though Vietnam has a detailed legal framework and laws related to food safety and hygiene, the problem remains, said Le Thi Nga, deputy chairwoman of the NA Justice Committee. "Unhygienic food is causing more illnesses, lowering economic competitiveness and badly affecting the country's image," Nga said.



#### U.S. firms show strong interest in Vietnam

Over 50 U.S. companies attended the "Meet the USA" conference held by Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the US Embassy to Vietnam. US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius said that he "would like to see the US become the number one investor in Vietnam," but stressed that US firms were seeking more improvements in the local business climate.



#### Vietnam to win "fine flavor" cocoa status

Vietnam is to become the 2nd Asian nation to be recognized by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) as a "fine flavor" cocoa origin. Vietnam produces cocoa on more than 11,000 hectares in three cocoa-growing regions: Western Highlands, Mekong Delta, and Southeastern Region. ...



#### FDI representatives concerned about Circular 23

At a recent meeting of City Leaders and FDI Business Associations, FDI investors made very candid comments about the procedures and the problems encountered when doing business in Vietnam. 63% of Japanese companies said the lack of transparency in the administration is a risk when investing in Vietnam. The Japanese Business Association (JBAH) representative said Circular 23 will hinder Japanese enterprises' plans to invest in Vietnam...



#### A Romantic Getaway For Vietnam Residents To 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. Indulge in an exquisite Destination Dining experience, rejuvenate with a couple spa treatment and let love blossom.



**Tickets sold very fast last year so purchase to tickets early to avoid disappointment.**  
**Click [HERE](#) for Event Schedule, Sponsorship Opportunities, and Ticket Booking**



### **Congratulations to ISHCMC - American Academy's Class of 2016!**

ISHCMC - American Academy is proud to have a 100% acceptance rate for students who applied to overseas universities this year. 70% of our graduating class were awarded scholarships amounting to USD \$480,000 and averaging at USD \$68,000 per student. Visit ISHCMC - American Academy at **Open House** on **Saturday, May 7th** to discover how we prepare students for success at top universities in the U.S. and around the world. **Register now** at <http://www.aavn.edu.vn/admissions/open-house.html>



### **Seminar "Compensation and Benefits strategy - Optimising towards effective business performance"**

Talentnet - Vietnam's leading HR consulting firm, is conducting the seminar on "Compensation and Benefits by Mercer methodology - The key in the integration era" exclusively for Vietnamese companies. This is the stepping stone for Vietnamese enterprises to adopt global salary system and structure.

Participants will have opportunities to be advised about building a salary structure with robust methodology and applying compensation and benefits data insights to effectively drive business results and retain talents.

The Seminar will take place on Tuesday, May 10th 2016 from 08:30am to 11:30am at Novotel Saigon Center hotel. Please contact Ms. Kim Oanh at (84 8) 6291 4188 - 402 or [tran.t.kim.oanh@talentnet.vn](mailto:tran.t.kim.oanh@talentnet.vn) to register.



### **Attractive Early Bird Deals to U.S. from Ho Chi Minh City with Korean Air**

Korean Air, established in 1969, is one of the world's top 20 airlines and carried more than 24 million passengers in 2012. Korean Air operates in excess of 200 flights per day to 128 cities in 45 countries on six continents with a fleet of 166 aircraft including ten A380s. With its modern airplanes and over 20,000 professional employees, Korean Air offers customers safety, convenience and comfort. Korean Air's award-winning cuisine of Korean and Western meals and state-of-the-art inflight entertainment system provide passengers ultimate satisfaction.



**AMCHAM  
PALOOZA**

### **Apr 27 AmCham Palooza Party at Pullman Saigon Centre**

AmCham will continue its series of monthly informal networking events at the coolest 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 - there's no age limit, you just have to be young at heart!

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

Dress code: Business Casual

The AmCham Palooza is a popular group that holds networking events and happy hours regularly to increase communication amongst membership and expats

### **May 05 New Member Welcome and Orientation (Members only)**

**Who should join?** New Joined Members' Representatives and Staffs

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.



### May 05 Members' Night & Meet the U.S. Consulate General

AmCham invites you to attend a Members Night, with cocktails and buffet reception. Members' spouses and guests are not only invited but also encouraged to attend with you. Welcome by AmCham Board Member, and introduction of Key Officers from the U.S. Consulate General, the cocktail reception will offer networking opportunities for one-on-one conversations with the Consulate General Team, AmCham Governors, fellow members, and especially meet new members, almost 70 companies have joined AmCham last year.



### 2016 AmCham Membership Card & Discount Handbook

The 2016 AmCham Membership Cards and Discount Handbooks are being delivered to Members. If you have not received them, please kindly contact our **Membership Team**.



### AmCham welcomes New Member Companies

AmCham Vietnam - HCMC is pleased to welcome our NEW members who joined us in the last few months. We encourage you to get to know and welcome them by visiting their websites and patronizing their businesses.

#### Welcome New members in Mar & Apr 2016:

**ADEN Services, AVIS Vietnam, Hotel Nikko Saigon, I am Dream Catcher Ltd., Manpower, McLarty Associates, Minh Hoang Garment Co., Ltd., Officience, Rentokil Initial Vietnam, Supply Chain Services International, Terralogic, TIRO Consulting Services, VVCorp Corporation**



### 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.

**\*NEW OFFER: Application fee will be waived for companies having a D-U-N-S® number.**

Contact [Ms. Sam Hoang](#) for joining or additional information on membership.



### 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): 646K views/yr; 275K visitors/yr (avg. 54K / 23K visitors/views per month) and 9.9K twitter followers, 8.0K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.4k 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

### AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages



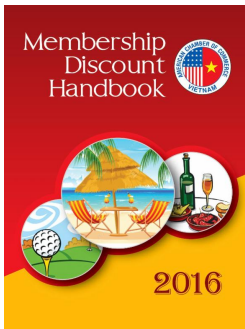


### Special thanks to COCA-COLA and TRUONG PHAT JVC for re-joining our 2016 Program

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](#).



### 2016 AmCham Discount Program

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. Please contact [Ms. Sam Hoang](#)

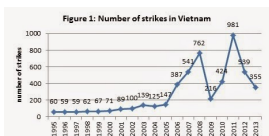
*(Members present their AmCham Membership Card to receive special, privileged discounts offered by AmCham Discount Partners. A listing of discount offers is available in the annual Membership Discount Handbook (hardcopy) and on the AmCham website at [HERE](#))*

## News and Issues



### WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: What businesses need to do

"Vietnam Customs currently has 500 documents with 5,000 requirements, characterized by '9 nots' ... not clear, not efficient, not effective, ... etc." (Mr. Nguyễn Đình Cung, Director, Central Institute for Economic Management)



### Unions in transition: Industrial Relations in Vietnam

Most experts ascribe a large part of the responsibility for the lack of efficient dispute resolution, to the VGC, which brings enterprise unions and industry unions together under one umbrella organization. So far, the VGCL has reacted only cautiously to work stoppages. The main problem - the lack of a genuine representation of workers' interests - remains untouched. As long as inflation can be maintained at a constantly low level and real wages manage not to fall, the conditions seen in 2011 will not materialize again. If another economic slump were to hit again though, vast numbers of work stoppages might well become common once again.



### Democratic Senators' Letter to U.S. Trade Representative re Labour

"Senator Melendez and 18 other Democratic Senators recently wrote to U.S. Trade Representative Froman, "It would be premature for Congress to take action on TPP before Malaysia, Vietnam, and Brunei have taken the first steps toward fulfilling their commitments [in the Labor Chapter and the bilateral consistency plans]. ... implementing legislation for the TPP should not be submitted to congress until Malaysia, Vietnam, and Brunei have met the obligations stipulated in the consistency plans."



### U.S. remains the leading source of FDI

globally, according to the OECD. Data shows U.S. FDI outflows accounted for 39.5% of all OECD FDI outflows in 2013, and 37.6% of all OECD FDI outflows in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available. And over the years, U.S. has accounted for 44% of the OECD FDI "stock" by 2014. OECD FDI outward flows in 2014 were \$895.428 billion, of which U.S. FDI outward flows were \$336.935 billion, or 37.6%.



## Announcing the Appointment of Mr. Kai Speth to General Manager of The Reverie Saigon

The Reverie Saigon is proud to announce the recent appointment of Mr. Kai Speth as the General Manager. Mr. Speth is an acclaimed hotelier with over 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry including management positions in luxury hotels throughout Asia. As the General Manager of The Reverie Saigon, Mr. Speth will be responsible for ensuring the hotel maintains the quality standards expected from a member of the Leading Hotels of the World as well as managing the growth and success of the luxury property.



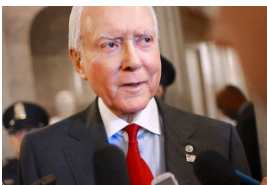
## Apple to invest \$1 billion in Vietnam data centre ... ? ... Not

"UPDATE 1: Bloomberg has received confirmation from Apple that there would be no data centre in Vietnam. We will provide further updates once we have received further information."



## Sander Levin, Top House Democrat on trade, opposes TPP

The leading House Democrat on trade policy said he opposes the TPP, underscoring the hostile political environment. He said he doesn't support the TPP in its current form because it contains insufficient provisions to protect labor, lacks binding rules to prevent currency manipulation, and could ease the movement of the auto industry from his home state of Michigan to Mexico.



## Finance Committee Chairman explains process of TPP ratification

The signing ceremony ... is just beginning. We'll debate the merits of each and every provision of this agreement and consider how it will impact workers and job creators in our country and how it will affect the health of our economy. I will focus on the process by which Congress will consider and debate this agreement ... it is important that people, including members of Congress, the administration, stakeholders, and the media, have a full understanding of how this is going to work. As I've said many times, the TPP is an extremely important agreement, and we need to get it done. But, given that importance, we need to focus more on getting it right than on getting it done fast.



## Weekly Updates Archive 2006 - 2015

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.



Corporate  
Partnership  
Sponsors

Diamond



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**RUSSIN & VECCHI**

**SEAMOC INC.**

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