A New Era in U.S. - VN Relations, TPP Impact on Vietnam Legal Reforms, Fake Fertilizers

FEATURES

President Obama's Visit to Vietnam: a New Era in U.S.-Vietnam Relations - Ambassador Osius

A discussion with The Hon. Ted Osius, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. He discussed President Barack Obama's May 2016 visit to Vietnam, the deepening of bilateral relations, and Vietnam's role in the region.

TPP impact on Vietnam's legal reform, with focus on labor and employment

The TPP Labor Chapter and the side agreement that Vietnam and the United States signed present several significant commitments of Vietnam to reform the employment and labor law, and ,as a result, impact on the nature of the relationships between employers, employees and especially trade unions

Fake fertilizers on the rise in Vietnam

Farmers in Vietnam are unsure of which fertilizer brands to trust after a recent watchdog report announced that as many as 1,000 metric tons of fake or substandard fertilizers are confiscated every year. The chief inspector at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, said that fake fertilizer is a field of concern for the ministry in 2016, alongside the use of banned chemicals in animal husbandry.

Trump, Clinton and the Future of US-Vietnam Relations

Following U.S. President Barack Obama's historic trip to Vietnam and in light of the ongoing presidential race in the United States, it is appropriate to consider the future of United States-Vietnam relations. Specifically, after Election Day, November 8, 2016, there will be a new U.S. president-elect.

Reverie of Vietnam

If your friends and family haven't already been to Vietnam, it needs to be on their list.Set off on a 1650Km north to south journey: capturing the best wonders of Vietnam: Hanoi's ancient quarter, the breathtaking Halong Bay, the claustrophobic caves in Trang An, the glamorous fabric merchants in Hoi An, the secret temples inside the marble mountain in Da Nang, the historical old capital Hue, the wet and tropical Mekong Delta, and the white sandy beaches at Phu Quoc.

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.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers

Tickets sold very fast last year so purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Ticket price INCLUDES - A Delicious "American Fare" Barbecue, Pizza, Cakes, Ice Cream ...And Much More (Over 20 Different Vendors). ALSO Included Is Unlimited, Budweiser Beer, Wine, Pepsi & Coke Products, Coffees. PLUS...Live Bands Performing Throughout The Afternoon And A Terrific "Kids Corner" With Fun Activities, Face Painting And Bouncy Castles.

Click HERE for Event Schedule, Sponsorship Opportunities, and Ticket Booking

Jun 18 Introducing Of Best View Apartments At Vinhomes Golden River

As if determined by natural law, the world's major metropolises such as New York, Tokyo, Seoul and Moscow all have spectacular rivers flowing through and embracing them. A river is nature's gift to each city, a source of life and vitality, flowing with prosperity for the people of the city, spurring development along its banks.
Vinhomes Golden River is the latest riverside eco-urban residential complex developed by Vingroup. Constructed on the Ba Son grounds along Saigon River, in the heart of District 1, the project will create a golden riverbank oasis in HCMC's CBD and offer a first-class lifestyle and cultured community for its residents.

Free Downloadable Content: James Lafferty - How to build an innovation culture in your company

This is an excerpt from the exclusive presentation Mr. James Lafferty (CEO of BAT Philippines) delivered during VietnamWorks' VIP Workshop in January, 2016. This presentation provided useful insights into corporate innovation practices. In the presentation, Mr. James Lafferty used "Tip of Diamond" concept to discuss about innovative ideas within the corporate setting.

Father's Day Celebration at Hotel Equatorial

Father's Day is the perfect day to let your Dad know just how much you appreciate him. You can choose to celebrate with a delicious traditional Father's Day Buffet at Chit Chat at the Café. Fathers will receive a card and will also be treated to sparkling wine. Alternatively, you can choose to celebrate over All-You-Can-Eat Dim Sum at Orientica Seafood Restaurant & Bar which includes a selection of freshly cooked Dim Sum.

Attractive Early Bird Deals to U.S. from HCM 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.

Introducing United Polaris, the redesigned International Business Class, en route this December

United is proud to announce our exciting and revolutionary new business class experience, redesigned from Ahh to Zzz. Named after the North Star, the brilliant point in the nighttime sky, United Polaris is the shining star of business class that flyers look to and can depend on for true comfort and a sleep experience like no other.

July 4-16 New World Saigon Hotel presents Red, White and Mmmm! American Food Festival

This summer, we're celebrating American Independence Day with an authentic taste of the USA at Parkview! With food and wine exhibitions, cooking demonstrations, wine dinners and more our chefs are cooking up the freshest flavours of American summer. Enjoy light and delicious California cuisine at a special buffet at Parkview restaurant available from 4 to 16 July during both lunch and dinner. Or gather a group of wine lovers for our California Wine Pairing Dinners on Fridays July 8 and 15

Jun 22 AmCham Palooza Party at Long Bar, The Reverie Saigon

Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring your business cards! AmCham will continue its regular informal networking events at the coolest and latest nightspots in Ho Chi Minh City. The Palooza Party is a platform to develop new friendships, networking opportunities and information exchange.

Jun 23 Merger Control and Essential Facility

The Big C, Metro and other mega M&A posed a real concern about the impact of competition law on the closing of the transaction. What happened if the deal is closed without merger control clearance? When a merger should be notified and when it can be exempted? You can ask questions to Dr Nguyen Anh Tuan, one of a very few experts on competition law.
Another issue is "essential facility," when a company dominant in a market tries to stop entrants by holding an essential facility, be it a telephone number or an operating machine in a hospital, or a license to exploit a restaurant at the airport. Who can complain about lack of access to an essential facility and how the incumbent can defend its position?

Jun 28 TPP - Impact on Vietnam's legal reform with special focus on labor and employment

This breakfast meeting is organized by AmCham HR and Legal Committees.
At the event, you will hear from subject matter experts - Mr. Fred Burke, Managing Partner, and Ms. Hang Nguyen, employment partner of Baker & McKenzie Vietnam, who will discuss the impact of the TPP on legal reform of Vietnam in general, and on the employment and labor landscape in particular.

Jul 12-20 World Blood Donor Days 2016

The AmCham CSR Group is working with the Hospital of Hematology and Blood Transfusion and Ho Chi Minh City Humanitarian Blood Donation Center of Red Cross to organize AmCham World Blood Donor Days from July 12 to July 20 at several locations. In the last 4 years, 2,784 AmCham Donors from Ho Chi Minh City, Thu Duc and Binh Duong have donated 3,770 blood units.

October 3-7 - Vietnam Big Build 2016

Habitat for Humanity Vietnam (HFH Vietnam) is looking for corporate sponsors interested in transforming lives, building hope and homes. HFH Vietnam is hosting a big build event in Phu Tho province, Northern Vietnam, from October 3-7, 2016. This event will bring together 300+ international volunteers, government partners and media to build 25-30 homes for low income families.

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 Apr & May 2016:

ADEN Services (Vietnam), Bach Khoa Investment and Development of Solar Energy Corp.; Best World Vietnam Co., Ltd; First Alliances; French-Vietnamese Center for Management Education (CFVG); Green Speed Co.; Greystone Data System Vietnam; Honeywell; Larion Computing; Scanwell Logistics; SonKim Land; Sunflower Media

JOIN US: Become a Member of AmCham Vietnam - HCMC

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

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.

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: 646K views/yr; 275K visitors/yr (avg. 54K / 23K visitors/views per month) and *10.2K twitter followers*, 8.4K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.5k 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

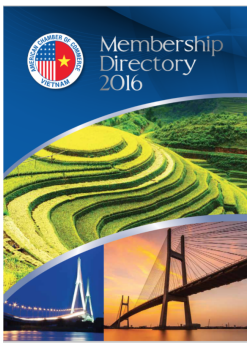
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to COCA-COLA, TRUONG PHAT JVC, and INTEL 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**.

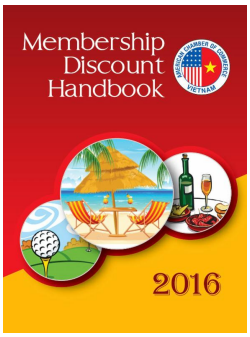


AmCham Membership Directory

The 2016 AmCham Membership Directories were distributed to all AmCham HCMC companies early May. If you have not received your copy, please kindly inform our Membership Team.

Taking this chance, AmCham would like to say **Thank You** to all members who have continued to support AmCham for years, and especially to those who selected the AmCham Directory as one of your marketing channels to promote your products and services.

To help you prepare your marketing plan budget next year, please find our Advertising Rates for the **2017 Membership Directory.** This publication is scheduled to print next March/April. Again, we offer FREE advertising online for booking and payment made before December 15, 2016. Contact Cindy Tran for more details and booking.



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

TPP supporters pin hopes on "lame duck" session

"Right now you have a president, a [Senate] majority leader and a speaker [of the House] who are all pro-trade; There is a pathway forward here," USTR Michael B. Foman said in an interview, reflecting a seize-the-moment recognition of the changed lineup ahead. Whether that is wishful thinking or a real prospect will have to come into focus well before November because supporters would likely need to begin congressional hearings in September to clear the path for a vote in the lame-duck session of Congress after Election Day.

Cargill opens 11th feed plant in Vietnam

Cargill officially inaugurated an $8.5 million animal nutrition plant in Nam Cam Industrial Zone, Dong Nam Economic Zone, Nghe An, Vietnam. The new facility will provide animal feed for livestock and will have a total capacity of 66,000 tonnes per year. It will provide customers with safe, trusted feed that maximizes the performance of their operations, which helps improve food safety across Vietnam's supply chain

Heavy penalties for use of banned chemicals in animal feed

A revised law that will come into effect on July 1 this year states that those who that feed their animals banned chemicals can face to up to 20 years in prison. Some households were fined at the beginning of March, after excessive amounts of salbutamol, a banned chemical that boosts the growth and production of meat in cattle, were found in their pigs' urine.

Three Vietnamese firms join Samsung supply chain

As of now, 63 Vietnamese supporting enterprises are suppliers to Samsung, including 11 first-tier and 52 second-tier enterprises. With a total investment of $7.5 billion, Samsung Electronics Vietnam's projects in the northern provinces of Thai Nguyen and Bac Ninh are scheduled to make 200 million smartphones in 2016. Meanwhile, the $2-billion SEHC facility will focus on research and development in addition to making high-end television sets. Samsung is committed to achieve a localisation rate of 35% by 2020.

Bosch invests more in Vietnam

Bosch Vietnam said at an annual press conference in HCMC on June 2 that its gasoline systems plant manufacturing continuously variable transmission (CVT) pushbelts in Dong Nai would get an extra investment of US$22 million after it received more than US$23 million last year. By the end of 2016, Bosch's total investment will have reached US$340 million.

Vogue Guide to Ho Chi Minh City

If a city's fortunes can be judged by the number of cranes dotting its landscape, Ho Chi Minh City has high hopes. Posters stuck to construction sites advertise lavish apartment blocks and landscaped shopping malls under development. A metro system, currently being built, promises comprehensive public transport at last. Change is in the air-and the city's exceptionally youthful population, over half of whom are younger than 35, are leading the way

Background on Agreement between the U.S. and Vietnam on Visa Reciprocity

Issue: AmCham requested that Vietnam issue temporary visitor visas to U.S. citizens on a basis of reciprocity, so that U.S. citizens would receive "one-year validity and multiple-entry visas" as do Vietnamese citizens that apply for temporary visitor status to the U.S., B1/B2 Visa.

A False rumor: "5 students died from drinking Sting" is fabricated

Le Xuan Van, Director of Tuyen Quang's Bureau of Food Safety and Hygiene, said that the rumor that 15 students in Tuyen Quang province died from drinking Sting was false. After receiving rumors on social networks that 15 students in Tuyen Quang province died from drinking Sting, Tuyen Quang's Bureau of Food Safety and Hygiene checked all hospitals in the province and was informed that there were no cases of drink poisoning due to Sting. In the past few days, many netizens shared "Breaking news in Tuyen Quang - 15 students died tragically from drinking Sting" on social network sites. According to information on the website, 15 victims were third grade students getting together to drink Sting during break time who vomited all over the school after 30 minutes. Two children allegedly passed out instantly and the school had to call an ambulance. After 15 minutes, the rest had similar symptoms again and were taken to the hospital. Local authorities and schools took immediate actions and found out that 15 children drank Sting sold by Ms. Nguyen Nhu N ... at the school gate. This was a false rumor, not true.

USITC Institutes Investigation of Carbon and Alloy Steel Products

The U.S. International Trade Commission has voted to institute an investigation of certain carbon and alloy steel products from China. The complaint alleges one or more of the following unfair acts: (1) a conspiracy to fix prices and control output and export volumes, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1; (2) the misappropriation and use of U.S. Steel's trade secrets; and (3) the false designation of origin or manufacturer, in violation of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a). The complainants request that the USITC issue a general exclusion order, a limited exclusion order, and cease and desist orders.

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.

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