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Ho Chi Minh City Chapter

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Minimum Wage, VN Pension System, Customs Assistance for U.S. Exporters, TPP Update

FEATURES



Congratulations to Raffle Prize Winners & Thanks to Sponsors!!!

Please pick up your prizes at the AmCham Office till **July 31, 2016**.
Your winning raffle ticket stub is requested upon receiving prize.

[Click here for Event Photo Album](#)



Consultations begin on 2017 Minimum Wage

At a meeting in Haiphong on July 22, the council's technical department proposed increases of 9.7-10.4%, 8.6%, and 7.1-8.3%. Vu Duc Giang, chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas), member of the council, stressed that the minimum wages should not go up in 2017 as textile and garment firms are now struggling with increasingly high input costs. "Textile and garment firms cannot expand investment and production if minimum wages are adjusted up again. This will lead to massive layoffs. Who will be responsible for this?" Giang said.



WB report: Vietnam's pension system facing serious challenges

According to WB experts, the official pension system is facing major challenges which will become increasingly serious when the aging process accelerates. Currently, the population aged 65 and older in Vietnam is 6.5 million, but the number is expected to increase by 3 times to 18.4 million by 2040. In 2014, Vietnam made reforms but they were not fast and powerful enough to restore financial balance of the retirement fund. Before the amendment, economists forecast that the fund would be in deficit in the early 2020s and the reserves will be exhausted by mid-2030.



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

CBP offers classification and valuation assistance program to U.S. exporters

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will provide technical assistance to help U.S. exporters resolve issues involving tariff classification and customs valuation treatment by other customs administrations. There have been cases where, through erroneous or inappropriate application of customs valuation principles or misinterpretation of classification rules by customs services in countries of import of U.S. exports, such actions have acted as non-tariff trade barriers to U.S. goods. These have often given rise to serious disputes and costly appeals. Under the new CBP program, technical assistance may be provided in appropriate cases by CBP's Office of Regulations and Rulings through review of the technical issues and, if appropriate, bilateral consultations with the customs administration involved.



United States and Vietnam reach agreement on shrimp and WTO dispute cases

The United States and Vietnam signed an agreement to resolve two longstanding WTO disputes over imports of Vietnamese shrimp to the United States (the official case numbers are DS404 and DS429). The agreement also provides a framework for the settlement of certain U.S. court litigation, as well as the resolution of certain outstanding duty claims covering various administrative reviews of the warmwater shrimp antidumping duty order. Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Barbara Weisel, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Enforcement and Compliance Paul Piquado, and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Quoc Khanh signed the agreement.



U.S. Labor Department accepts petition alleging that Columbia is not complying with Labor Action Plan

Congressional labor champions cheered the Labor Department's decision Friday to accept a petition filed by U.S. and Colombian labor unions alleging the South American country is failing to comply with labor rules under its free trade deal with the U.S. "Labor provisions in our free trade agreements with other countries mean nothing if they are not enforced," said Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio). "It's clear Colombia has ignored labor violations and failed to uphold the agreement's protections for workers who want to organize. Today's decision by DOL sends a signal that the U.S. is committed to rooting out mistreatment of workers and raising labor standards around the world."



TPP Prospects for approval in the U.S. Congress "lame duck" session

"Everything in Washington is impossible until it is inevitable," Ambassador Froman quipped at the end of a breakfast for reporters where he discussed the TPP. When pressed on what made him think TPP could clear Congress after the election, Froman said that in his discussions with members "we are getting a very good response on the substance of the agreement." He mentioned spending "a lot of my time" with rank-and-file House Republicans. "As you walk through the agreement and talk about the benefits to their constituents, they are quite responsive and understand both what the benefits are moving forward and what the costs are" of not acting. He said he's confident the TPP could win approval this year and has enough bipartisan support.



BANYAN TREE

LĂNG CỎ

CENTRAL VIETNAM

A Romantic Getaway To Central Vietnam For Vietnam Residents

With stunning views of the East Sea and the magnificent Truong Son mountain range in the background, the tranquil and intimate **Banyan Tree Lăng Cỏ**, 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



Aug 6 AUV Grand Opening

We are pleased to announce the Grand Opening of The American University in Vietnam. The first 100 % privately funded, nonprofit US-style university in Vietnam, AUV enjoys affiliations with US universities (including California State and State of New York campuses, Florida Institute of Technology, University of Missouri, Kansas City). AUV offers a University Prep program, General Education and pathways to degrees in Business, Hospitality Management, Communication and Computer Science at its new sea view campus in Danang. Generous inaugural year scholarships are available.



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 awardwinning cuisine of Korean and Western meals and stateoftheart 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.



Jul 27 AmCham Palooza Party at Sorae Sushi

AmCham will continue its 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. Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring your business cards!



July 29 Join SPVB's Food & Accessories Fair 2016 to raise fund for the poor!

CSR has long been an integral part of Suntory PepsiCo Vietnam's sustainable business strategy in Vietnam. This July we would like to invite you to our Food & Accessories Fair 2016, a meaningful annual event hosted by our Head Office Helping Hand Committee.

Click [HERE](#) to find more details about our achievements on 2014 - 2015.

The event is a unique opportunity to show what we have accomplished and what we can continue to accomplish - together!



Aug 3 Being the Influential Human Resources Partner

At this meeting, you will hear from Mr. Jeffrey Markey, Founder and Chief of Intellectual Property Officer of Simitri Group International - a global communication skills training and coaching consultancy. Jeffrey will discuss the changing role of Human Resources and the mindset, skills and behaviours to be a Trusted Advisor to the business.



Aug 18 The Next Manufacturing Base In Vietnam

Vietnamese Government has invested in infrastructure connecting the two major cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh with neighboring provinces and especially areas of key economic zones in the central of Vietnam. In order to create opportunities and employment in less developed areas, the government is providing more subsidies in term of tax incentives coupled with a low labor cost and an abundance of labor to attract FDIs flowing into these areas. With the purpose to create opportunities to expand new business production at low costs in key economic areas, VSIP in cooperation with AmCham is organizing a seminar focusing on the topic: "THE NEXT MANUFACTURING BASE IN VIETNAM"



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 Jun 2016:



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 **10.4K twitter followers**, 8.6K 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



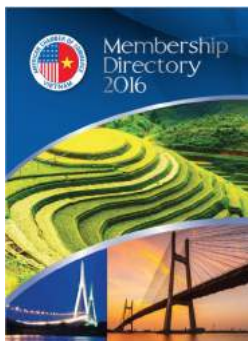
AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

Special thanks to SUNTORY PEPSI for re-joining our 2016 Program as a Diamond Partner

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](#).



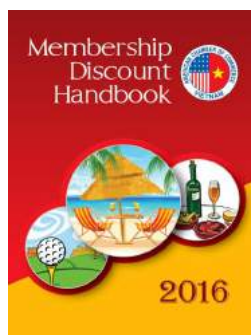
2017 AmCham Membership Directory

To help you prepare your marketing plan budget next year, please find our Advertising Rates for the **2017 Membership Directory**.

- Circulation: 1,700 copies, approx 440 pages, dimensions: 19cm x 26cm.
- Perfect bind, soft laminated cover
- Published date: April 2017

We offer **FREE ADVERTISEMENT** on www.amchamvietnam.com for any booking and payment made before December 15, 2016.

Contact [Cindy Tran](#) for more details and booking.



2017 AmCham Discount Program

The AmCham Discounts Program is a mutually beneficial opportunity for both Discount Partners and AmCham Members who are representatives of high profile companies doing business and living in Vietnam.

By offering AmCham Members special discounts on services or products, Discount Partners can enjoy marketing opportunities through listing freely and/or placing an advertisement on the [Discount Handbook](#) & [Online](#).

We are preparing for AmCham Discount Handbook 2017 which will be published and sent to Members in early January, please find out Advertising Rates at [AD Handbook](#) / [AD Online](#). Contact Ms. Sam Hoang now for more details and booking.

Please contact [Ms. Sam Hoang](#) for full information.

News and Issues



TUV Rheinland Vietnam Boosts Apparel and Textiles Testing Capabilities with New Gas Fume Chamber

TUV Rheinland Vietnam has expanded its physical testing service capabilities in the country with the implementation of a new, state-of-the-art gas fume chamber at its Softlines Laboratory in Ho Chi Minh City. The first such facility within the TUV Rheinland Asia Pacific network, it will support customers in Vietnam's second most important export industry - textiles and apparel - by providing an essential one-stop testing solution for exporters that want to comply with requirements of international buyers.



Officials dismissed for certifying 800 substandard aquaculture products

The General Directorate of Fisheries has punished its Director of Aquaculture Department Bui Duc Quy for making fake seafood certificates for the circulation of 800 substandard aquaculture products when he was the Director of the Center for Aquaculture Testing with other officials.

Quy and Le Tuan Anh, deputy head of the Administrative Management Department of the General Directorate of Fisheries were expelled from the Communist Party and removed from their posts. Five employees of the Center for Aquaculture Testing were fired and one was given a warning.



Official pushes for jail for drug use by animal farms as violations persist

A senior agriculture inspector has exhorted the government to jail people using harmful substances to artificially increase the weight of livestock, saying the fines in place now have failed to deter the practice. Using illegal substances in animal farming is now imposed a fine of VND5-20 million (US\$223-900). But Pham Tien Dung, chief inspector at the agriculture ministry, pointed out that the penalty is meager compared to the VND100-300 million in extra profits a farmer would make.



Food safety: Da Nang slaughterhouse coats chickens with carcinogenic dye

Nguyen Cong Ngoc was found mixing gold coloring powder in water to dye the chickens before delivering them to the market. He said the chickens sell better with gold-colored skin. Many Vietnamese believe they taste better than chickens with white, pale skin.

No matter how many times Vietnamese agriculture officials have condemned the trick as "unethical," it remains common with the chemical easily found at markets.



U.S. firms eye opportunity in Vietnam's demand for clean water

Given Vietnam's huge demand for clean water, and the government's need to develop water infrastructure, U.S. companies are looking at opportunities to enter and expand their operations in Vietnam, a top U.S. Department of Commerce official said on Monday. While the need for sustainable, fresh water supply is common throughout Southeast Asia, one of the main concerns in

Vietnam is untreated wastewater being released into waterways, rivers and lakes. Other issues include a lack of clean water generally, and the high loss ratio of water supplying projects.



Bell Helicopter demos in Hanoi

Bell Helicopter, a Textron Inc. company, announced the successful demonstration tour of the Bell 412EPI in Vietnam. The demo was organized with the support of the Vietnam Helicopter Corporation (VNH) at Gia Lam airport in Hanoi.

During the two-day demonstration, Bell Helicopter showcased the utility-configured helicopter to more than 100 guests, including government officials, armed forces and public security representatives, VNH management, the Canadian Ambassador to Vietnam and representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi.



Bottom drops out of market to export catfish to China

China was previously anticipated to replace the U.S. and European markets to be the top consumer of Vietnamese catfish, evidenced by the high demand in the first months of 2016, causing the price to reach VND27,000 (\$1.2) per kilogram, the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) stated.



Very few foreign visitors return to Vietnam

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) has said that only six percent of first time visitors to Vietnam ever visit again. The Vietnamese tourist industry seems to focus mainly on ways to boost profit, leaving operational processes cumbersome, while at the same time, marketing campaigns remain limited. It is estimated that the annual marketing budget of Vietnamese tourism is around US\$2 million.



Vietnam's GDP growth Jan-Jun 2016 dropped to 5.5%

In line with World Bank projections in a 2013 report, and down from 6.3% over the same period in 2014. The legal, business and investment environment must be improved to create favorable conditions for firms and investors, and boost economic growth. The World Bank report recommended focus on improving transport and trade logistics to benefit by joining global supply chains, attracting more FDI, and implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement, which is estimated to reduce Vietnam's trade costs by 20%.



U.S. CBP Launches "Global Entry" for Singapore citizens

Singapore will become the 7th country - and the second country in Asia - whose citizens will be eligible to enroll in Global Entry, the flagship of the U.S. Trusted Traveler programs, with 3 million members. More than 112 million international travelers arrived at U.S. airports last year. Once approved, Global Entry members get to use automated kiosks, bypassing regular passport control queues when entering the United States. The average processing time for Global Entry members at a kiosk is approximately one minute. The kiosks have been used more than 22 million times, and that equates to a savings of more than 360,000 officer hours.



Food Safety: Senate votes to end USDA catfish inspections; House doesn't

The U.S. Senate voted 55-43 to shut down the nation's only catfish inspection program. If it passes the House, it would still have to be signed by President Obama before the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) catfish inspection program would be shut down. If that happens, catfish would likely revert back to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where only 1% to 2% of seafood imports are inspected.



Fish exports to U.S. to be tested

Siluriformes fish products for export to the United States will undergo safety tests from July 17 to October 15, the National Agro-Forestry-Fisheries Quality Assurance Department (NAFIQAD) said. Samples will be taken from all batches of fish products manufactured by 23 factories that are eligible to export their products to the United States. These samples will be tested for the presence of salmonella, malachite green/leuco malachite green, enrofloxacin/ciprofloxacin and crystal violet.



Senator Hatch: Implementation Agreements Key to TPP Approval

Senator Hatch advised the White House on how it could build support for TPP: a very strong set of plans detailing how individual countries will implement the agreement. "These country-specific implementation commitments would provide a valuable tool for resolving shortcomings and ambiguities in the agreement, while helping to build confidence in the Congress that TPP will be implemented fully and faithfully by our trading partners," Hatch said in a statement submitted to the congressional record.



MetLife Appoints Gaurav Sharma as CEO Vietnam

MetLife announced today the appointment of Gaurav Sharma as Country CEO (General Director) for its Vietnam business, BIDV MetLife Life Insurance Limited Liability Company ("BIDV MetLife"). Mr. Sharma began his career at MetLife in May 2007 and has been employed in a number of senior roles at PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited. Mr. Sharma recently served as the Vice President and Head of Operations for the Designated Markets region and had direct responsibility for the operational set up of the Vietnam business.



Bunge to form joint venture with Wilmar in Vietnam

The deal calls for Bunge to sell 45% of its equity in its Vietnam crush operations to Wilmar. That will create a three-party joint venture with Bunge and Wilmar as equal 45% shareholders, with soybean meal distributor Quang Dung of Vietnam keeping its existing 10% stake in the operations. Quang Dung is majority owner of Green Feed, a growing Vietnamese feed milling business, officials said. Bunge is the largest producer of soybean oil in Vietnam, one of Asia's fastest-growing domestic edible oils markets, and Wilmar is a major buyer of that product, officials said.



Climate change threatens Mekong Delta

The Mekong Delta, with an area of 3.96 million hectares and a population of 18 million, is considered the nation's biggest hub for agricultural and aquacultural production, contributing nearly 41% of Vietnam's agricultural output, 65% of the country's fish exports, 70% of fruit, and 90% of its rice shipments.



Forbes lists top brands in Vietnam

Vinamilk, the dairy giant with a 45 percent government stake, comes first in the top 40 with a brand value of US\$1.52 billion. The entire list, which only assesses homegrown brands, is worth around \$5 billion. Valued at \$752 million, military-run telecom firm Viettel, which owns more than half of the domestic telecommunications market, ranks second, followed by conglomerate Vingroup and top brewer Sabeco.



Sanders vows to oppose TPP at the Democratic Party convention

Sen. Bernie Sanders' campaign on Jul 5 shared the specific language he wants inserted in the Democratic Party platform concerning the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. The amendment reads, "It is the policy of the Democratic Party that the Trans-Pacific Partnership must not get a vote in this Congress or in future sessions of Congress." Sanders vowed that if unsuccessful in inserting anti-TPP language, "we are going to take this fight to the floor of the Democratic Party convention in Philadelphia next month."



Investor Survey 2016 - Ministry of Planning & Investment / Foreign Investment Agency

As part of its ongoing effort to support investors, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) will carry out a survey to gain an understanding of investors' perceptions about Vietnam's business environment, and the most effective investment promotion approach. The survey will provide input for MPI and other relevant organizations to improve Vietnam's business environment for investors. **Please click this link to begin the survey.**



Laws need to be revised to comply with TPP commitments

The National Assembly, the Government and agencies have a lot of work to do to put the TPP agreement into practice, and to create a new motivation for the nation during its integration process once the agreement is ratified, stated a Government official. Speaking at a conference on the TPP and its compatibility with Vietnam's laws in Hanoi on July 5, deputy head of the NA Law Committee Le Minh Thong stressed the need to establish a legal framework that conforms to the TPP.



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

The TPP Labor Chapter and the side agreement that Vietnam signed with the United States 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.

View and download the powerpoint presentation.



Big Labor in U.S. makes peace with Hillary Clinton on trade

Under pressure in the Democratic primaries, Hillary Clinton, the presumptive nominee, announced opposition to the TPP even though she was a chief proponent while serving as U.S. secretary of state in Obama's first term. White House officials view a potential lame-duck session of Congress after the November elections as a final chance for Congress to ratify the TPP. Some analysts have said they believe Clinton would not stand in the way. Trumka disagreed.



400 businesses and associations urged Congress to approve TPP ASAP

More than 400 businesses, companies and associations in 20 states sent letters to members of Congress, urging them to pass TPP as soon as possible. The letters, which attracted the support of big-name brands like Adidas and General Electric as well as groups like the National Pork Producers Council and the National Association of Manufacturers, were personalized to each state to highlight how individual markets would benefit from trade and the TPP.



NCTF, CMAA, Customs-Business Consultations in the WTO TFA

Three pre-requisites for implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the TPP Chapter 5, Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation are to establish the institutional framework, which includes: (1) National Committee on Trade Facilitation, (2) Customs Cooperation (Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement), and (3) Government - Business Consultations on all laws and regulations affecting imports and exports. Below are details of the commitments in the TFA and the TPP.



Conservative think-tank analyzes and supports TPP

The TPP, with its 5,500 pages of explicit rules and exemptions, is not free trade. Like all other U.S. trade agreements, the TPP is a managed trade agreement, with provisions that both liberalize and restrict trade and investment. While the Cato Institute believes comprehensive trade liberalization would be ideal, expecting the TPP to deliver complete "free trade" is unrealistic. If the TPP will deliver more trade liberalization than restriction, and realistic alternatives to more comprehensive liberalization are unavailable, why not support the TPP?



More U.S. technical assistance for Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved legislation that would establish a five-year pilot program to help developing countries implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which aims to cut red tape in customs and other international trade procedures. The legislation was sponsored by Chairman Bob Corker and ranking member Ben Cardin.



TPP: remaining issues for U.S. Congress

12 years' protection for biologics test data, financial services data flows seem to be remaining issues for U.S. Congress. Tobacco seems closed, but has cost TPP at least 13-16 votes in the House and eight or more in the Senate. In June 2015, the TPA only passed the House by 10 votes (218-208), so those lost votes will have to be made up by persuading some that voted against the TPA in June 2015.



ADB Affirms Support For Vietnam, Cautions on SOEs

The ADB anticipates growth of 6.7% in 2016 and 6.5% in 2017, but sluggish SEO reform acts as a brake on even faster expansion. ADB President Takehiko Nakao placed emphasis on Vietnam's state-owned (SEOs), many of which have turned into financial nightmares for the government. During his visit, Nakao stated that "it is particularly important to reform SEOs by reducing the state's ownership, improving corporate governance and strengthening financial performance."



2016 Fashion Industry Benchmarking Study

U.S. fashion companies are more actively seeking alternatives to "Made in China" in 2016, but China's position as the No.1 sourcing destination seems unlikely to change anytime soon. Meanwhile, sourcing from Vietnam and Bangladesh may continue to grow over the next two years, but at a slower pace.



Vietnam businesses unlikely to derive maximum TPP benefits quickly

VCCI's WTO Center said that according to an April survey 1,500 enterprises only 11.6% plan to change their production modes in the next three years to improve value added.



Starbucks opens fifth coffee shop in Hanoi

now has 20 outlets nationwide. "We look at Vietnam and we see so much potential. It's such a vibrant and exciting market," said Patricia Marques, general manager at Starbucks Vietnam at the store's opening. Starbucks' coffee is priced slightly higher than most of its local competitors. Vietnam is one of the largest coffee producers in the world, but arabica beans, which are used by Starbucks for its drinks, account for only around 3% of the country's coffee output, while robusta accounts for 97%.



Watchdog checks Uber's taxes

Authorities managed to collect Uber's share of taxes, but it was difficult to collect the drivers' share. Nguyễn Quang Tiến, director of the General Department of the Taxation's Department of Tax Reform and Modernisation, said on Tuesday that the performance of tax payment obligations by Uber's taxi drivers must now be checked first while Việt Nam needed to have policies to better tax the increasingly popular car hailing service for the income it received from its operations in Việt Nam.



"China is not a market economy" - Washington Post

After years of booming by exporting and investing, the People's Republic has begun accumulating debt and excess industrial capacity; yet the leadership in Beijing seems unwilling or unable to make the necessary transition to greater reliance on services and domestic consumption. China's bloated state-run industries, especially steel and aluminum, are desperately trying to raise cash by flooding the United States and Europe with cheap products, a global fire sale that threatens jobs in those countries, triggers retaliatory measures - and adds to geopolitical tensions already high over the maritime boundary dispute in the South China Sea.



Vietnamese consumers find it hard to trust food safety management

Only 30% of consumers in Hanoi believe that foods with safety certificate are safe, according to Nguyen Thi Hong Minh, a former deputy agriculture minister. The proportion in Ho Chi Minh City is higher, at 70%.



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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