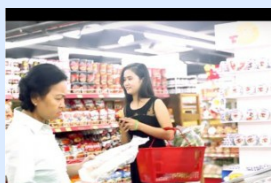




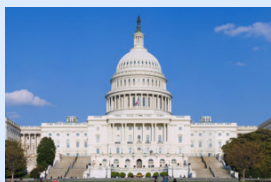
Food Safety; TPP Draft Statements, Ashley Grand Opening, Members Night

FEATURES



Food Safety: TraceVerified provides traceability for food products

Dr. Nguyen Thi Hong Minh is perhaps one of the most interesting and qualified foodtech entrepreneurs you'll meet in Vietnam. A seafood processing engineer by trade, she got her PhD in political economy and was eventually appointed as the Deputy Minister of Fisheries to head up food safety and fishery exports in Vietnam.



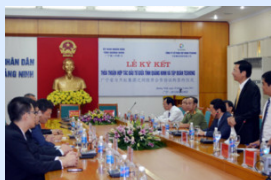
TPP is coming: [Draft] Statement of Administrative Action submitted to Congress

The White House put Congress on notice that it will be sending lawmakers a bill to implement the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement - a move intended to infuse new energy into efforts to ratify the trade pact.



TPP Agreement Implementation Act and [Draft] Statement of Administrative Action

This Statement of Administrative Action is submitted to the Congress in compliance with section 106 (a)(1)(E)(ii) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 ("Trade Priorities Act") and accompanies the implementing bill for the free trade agreement, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. The bill approves and makes statutory changes strictly necessary or appropriate to implement the Agreement.



Textile giant Texhong is charging ahead in Vietnam, despite TPP uncertainties

For Texhong Textile Group, even as uncertainty looms over the free trade pact, the company is firmly committed to further expansion in its southern neighbor. Texhong, one of the world's largest yarn suppliers, has been aggressively building up production capabilities in TPP signatory Vietnam. Founder and Chairman Hong Tianzhu has said one of the main intentions of investing there is to deal with the trade agreement. But even without the TPP, the competitiveness of the Vietnam operation "is very strong, among all Southeast Asian nations and even compared to Chinese production bases."



Senegal, Uruguay ratify Trade Facilitation Agreement

Senegal and Uruguay have ratified the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The submission of the instruments of acceptance means that nearly 85% of the ratifications needed to bring the TFA into force have now been received.



Sep 12 & 13 Tan Khoa 20 years anniversary

United States' brands E & J Gallo, Monster Energy and 30 world popular wines (Bollinger, Paul Jaboulet Aine, Veyret Latour, etc.), spirits (Jagermeister, Distell, Campari, Bavaria, Brown-Forman, Bacardi etc.) & non-alcohol suppliers are coming to Vietnam on September 12 & 13, 2016 to join the celebration of 20 years Tan Khoa anniversary events. Since 1996, Tan Khoa Distribution Corporation, a member of AmCham, has been Vietnam's leading Wine & Spirits distributor and supplier.



Sep 12 - 24 Reflections gets grilling for U.S. Beef weeks

Caravelle's atmospheric fine-dining experience, Reflections is welcoming carnivores with a special menu of prime U.S. Beef from 12th to 24th September. Tenderloin, rib-eye or Black Angus strip loin ranging in weight of 150 - 350 grams will be expertly cooked over a charcoal heated iron grill and presented with a choice of two side dishes, traditional condiments and sauces. For information, please contact 0906 900 523 or email: culinary@caravellehotel.com

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Thu, Sep 15 in HCMC: IPFA and Freshfields Event - Vietnam Renewables at a Crossroads - Is the Optimism Justified?

Given its natural environment, there is huge potential for renewable energy to bridge the power supply gap in Vietnam. But there are many challenges to be overcome first. This session will test the current optimism for renewables project and consider the risks, challenges and opportunities in the market from the point of view of investors, suppliers, financiers and other market participants. Attendees will gain valuable insights from developers and funders active in the market, as well as from legal, risk management and technical experts. It is also an excellent opportunity to network with others interested in the Vietnamese renewables sector.

There is no charge for attending the event

Sep 17 Grand Opening of Ashley Furniture Homestore



We would like to invite you to join us for the Grand Opening of Ashley Furniture Homestore, the U.S. No.1 furniture brand, on 17 September 2016 at Sala Dai Quang Minh Residential, 10 Mai Chi Tho Avenue, District 2. Be the first to preview and admire the 10,000m² showroom with furniture & home accessories from the two brands Pho Xinh and Ashley. The ceremony has also the presence of many celebrities, VIPs and potential customers. Let's enjoy cocktails & appetizers and an indoor tour to explore the discounts that will be honored on the day of the Grand Opening. Welcome to our home!

"Come Home Phở Good" - Bringing Vietnamese Talent Back Home



With an increasing demand for local talent, Robert Walters Vietnam is leveraging our international network of offices to attract Vietnamese professionals from overseas who are potentially interested in a move back home. "Come Home Phở Good" is our outreach program targeting overseas Vietnamese professionals, sharing market research, insight and updates on the job market in Vietnam. We have put in place a dedicated International Candidate Manager who is solely responsible for identifying and connecting with overseas Vietnamese talent looking for job opportunities back home.



The additional ANA flight HCMC-Tokyo from October 30

ANA, a Joint Venture partner with United Airlines, will add a second departure from HCMC to Tokyo's Narita airport on October 30, 2016. This new flight will leave HCMC at 7:30AM and arrive at Narita at 3:15PM. With these timings customers can connect to 10 destinations non-stop in the United States either on ANA or United. With this flight the ANA/United Joint Venture offers more United States destinations than any other airline serving HCMC.

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 state-of-the-art inflight entertainment system provide passengers ultimate satisfaction.



Sep 21 Members' Night and Meet the Consulate General Key Officers

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. Welcome by AmCham Board Member, and introduction of new Consul General Mary Tarnowka and 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.



Sep 22 Vietnamese Payroll Transition Issues and Solutions

For many organizations, outsourcing payroll is a common-sense way to save time and ensure compliance without sacrificing the level of service provided to employees. For those reasons, the decision to outsource is often easy, while the actual process of transitioning from in-house to outsourced payroll functions is more challenging. Register to join our seminar "Vietnamese Payroll Outsourcing Transition Issues and Solutions." You can make your Vietnamese payroll outsourcing project painless with correct preparation, careful implementation, and by choosing a trustworthy service provider.



Sep 22 If You Were Under Cyber-Attack, Would You Ever Know

This seminar provides the insights of information security and lessons learned from various real-case security projects of Ernst & Young Vietnam Limited. It also enables participants to discover the most vulnerable points in their devices / IT systems as well as find out how to defend the systems.



Sep 23-25 AmCham Networking Weekend @ The Grand Ho Tram Strip

Each year, members of the AmCham chapters in Hanoi and HCMC meet for a casual weekend of networking, policy discussions, golf, food and fun. AmCham's Networking Weekend brings together our members and US government representatives, including the Ambassador and Consul General, to discuss the most pressing issues facing our business community in Vietnam.



Sep 27 Vietnam Buyers Training 2016

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with Health Canada (HC) and AmCham, will conduct a training seminar for Buyers & Sourcing Professionals. The focus of this one-day, FREE training event will be on products for children and products that have demonstrated high risks of safety violations and hazards such as textiles/apparel, furniture and toys. If your organization employs or is associated with a purchasing professional that buys products to be sold in the United States and/or Canada, this seminar is for you!



Sep 28 AmCham Palooza Party

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!

Oct 13-14 Talent Management Vietnam 2016 at Le Meridien Saigon Hotel



Talent Management Vietnam 2016, the foremost summit including one full day conference & two valued workshops on the next day, is designed for CEOs and HR Professionals to have a full outlook on 21st Century Talent Management trends in Vietnam and ASIA, and also discuss and learn all aspects of Talent Management from Recruitment, Talent Acquisition, Retention, Learning & Development to Succession Planning Strategies with Guru Speakers, Thought Leaders and HR Practitioners from Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam. Contact: Ms. An Nguyen - Mobile: 0938 140 009

Nov 12 The 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball



It is that time of year again, the Marines are preparing for the 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The Marines of the Marine Security Guard Detachment Ho Chi Minh City would like to invite you to attend our celebration on 12 November 2016 from 6pm till midnight at The Reverie Saigon, 22-36 Nguyen Hue Boulevard, Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam. Tickets can be purchased at AmCham office; Do not wait, since there are a limited number of seats. We hope to see you there! *Semper Fi*

Nov 14 TPP Workshop in Vietnam



With the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) covering 40 percent of the world's GDP and reaching approximately 800 million consumers, this historic trade agreement represents significant opportunities for the apparel, footwear, and accessories industries. TPP will enable companies to reduce costs, stay competitive, and enter new markets. TPP is full of technicalities that can cost you hundreds of millions if you don't understand and know how to apply the specifics.

Nov 15 Vietnam: International Product Safety and Compliance Conference



Product safety, responsible sourcing, compliance, and transparency are the backbone of successful and respected supply chains. AAFA brings together industry leaders to educate factories and suppliers in Vietnam on the critical components of manufacturing and delivering products that meet global regulations, industry compliance, and consumer demand. The conference will be presented in English with simultaneous interpretation into Vietnamese.

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 July and August 2016:

Academy International Ltd.; Amano; Groupe SEB Vietnam / Vietnam Fan JSC; Minh Pham Brothers Corporation; Nestle Vietnam Co., Ltd.; Prudential Vietnam Assurance; QL International Education & Training Development Co., Ltd.; Sutrix Solutions; Vietnam Wine Tours

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 **10.6K twitter followers**, 8.8K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.6k 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

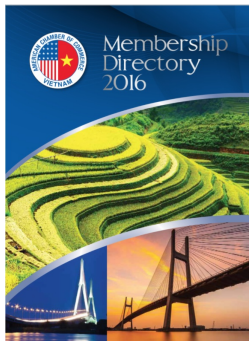


AmCham Corporate Partnership Packages

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](#).

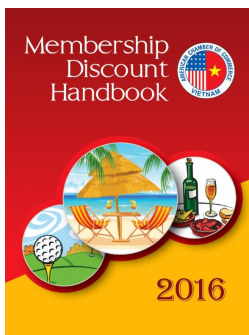


2017 AmCham Membership Directory

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.



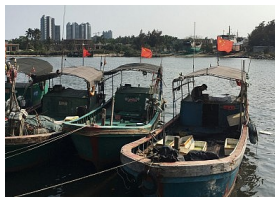
Administration readies one last push for TPP in lame duck session

Although the administration's push will begin in September, no vote will occur until after the Nov 8 elections. Just as the White House Democrats and congressional Republicans mostly agree on the economic benefits of trade, they have parallel political interests in delaying debate. Republicans do not want to provoke attacks from their presidential nominee, Donald J. Trump or hurt other Republican candidates. Mr. Obama does not want to make trouble for the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, who has struggled to persuade voters of her sincerity in switching from support of the pact to opposition.



"Country-specific implementation plans ... to develop political support for TPP" - Senator Hatch

"It is essential that the Obama administration work to reach country-specific plans identifying the changes that our trading partners must and will make to their laws, regulations, and practices in order to meet their key TPP obligations. 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.



A fisheries dispute in the East Sea (South China Sea)

Although the East Sea (SCS) covers only 2.5% of the Earth's surface, it comprises some 12% of the total global fish catch. Unfortunately, the region's fisheries are in serious jeopardy. As of 2008, virtually all SCS fishery stocks were collapsed, over-exploited, or fully-exploited. The situation is worsening. The most important aspect of the disputes is not oil or sovereignty-it is whether or not SCS fish continue to appear on Asia's menus.



TPP Prospects in the U.S. Congress Lame Duck Session

"Everything in Washington is impossible until it is inevitable," Ambassador Froman said. But House Speaker Paul Ryan said on Aug 4 that TPP won't get a vote in Congress this year because there isn't enough support. He said there is no point in bringing up the TPP after the November elections because he doesn't see how the Obama administration can build enough support for the agreement. Nevertheless, the Administration is making a "whole of government" effort to pass the TPP this year



Officials urge tighter food safety control

Chairman of Ha Noi Supermarkets Association Vu Vinh Phu said that more attention should be paid to the production stage with solving problems of production factors like air, soil and water. A recent conference showed that in the first half of this year, almost 4% of vegetables had excessive concentrations of pesticide, 1.3% of meat contained excessive concentrations of chemicals, and 5.3% of aquaculture products had excessive antibiotics residue.



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.



**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.



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."



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.



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.



Diamond



Silver



Corporate
Partnership
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Bronze



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76 Le Lai Street, District 1

Ho Chi Minh City

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