



Administration gives up on TPP; Global Product Safety & Compliance

FEATURES



Obama Administration gives up on TPP

On Fri, Nov 11 in Washington DC, "Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress told the White House they wouldn't advance the TPP in the election's aftermath," during the lame duck session, "and Obama administration officials acknowledged it has no way forward now." Both presidential candidates opposed the TPP.



Nov 14 The Future of Trade and TPP: What You Need to Know Today

An overview of the trade environment after the U.S. elections. Nate Herman, AAFA Senior Vice President, Supply Chain, will discuss the relevance and importance of the TPP in the new environment for apparel, footwear, and travel goods.



Nov 15 Global 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.



U.S. to investigate alleged China steel transshipments via Vietnam

The Department of Commerce is expected to launch a formal investigation into whether Chinese steel companies are shipping steel through Vietnam to avoid U.S. import tariffs. Independent trade data supports what the steelmakers are alleging. In the first six months of 2016, shipments of steel from Vietnam to the U.S. increased to 312,329 tons, from 25,756 tons in the year earlier period, according to data firm Global Trade Information Services.



Dec 10 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball - A Southern Christmas

The AmCham Board of Governors cordially invites you to the 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball, on Sat, Dec 10, 2016, from 6:30 pm. Our theme is A Southern Christmas. This year's holiday fête will feature unsurpassed gourmet fare, currently under creation by the InterContinental's new chef, diverse and first-class musical entertainment, and, of course, the usual abundance of holiday fellowship and cheer.

We are seeking donation of cash and vouchers of products/services for raffle- and silent auction prizes. [Sponsorship Packages](#) will provide you full details of benefits for sponsors.



Winter Special Offer

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. From now until 31 December 2016, book your stay in our Lagoon Pool Villa at VND 6,580,000+/-/night and enjoy many inclusions including daily breakfast, in-villa afternoon tea and replenished daily mini bar for selected non-alcoholic beverages.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers

Special Offer For Tet Gifts 2017



Tet season is a time that all companies show their attention to employees by giving gifts. And Coca-Cola's product is one of their common Tet gifts. To bring more benefit to AmCham members, Coca-Cola will join the Membership Discount Program by offering our Best prices valid from 15/11/2016 - 15/01/2017. This will offer great opportunities for companies to save, while employees and their families will enjoy.

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.



An 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 this schedule, customers can connect, with a convenient layover time, 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.



Advanced Purchase Promotion to North America from HCM City

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 systems provide passengers the ultimate satisfaction.



Saigon Gourmet Week 2016 - Sofitel Saigon Plaza

In celebration of the excellence and creativity of French gastronomy, five (5) Michelin-star Chefs from France gather for the 2nd Saigon Gourmet Week taking place at L'Olivier - our authentic Mediterranean restaurant from Sunday 20 to Saturday 26 November 2016. The 2nd Saigon Gourmet Week program will be packed with a series of lunches, dinners, cooking classes, and the event highlight - Gala Dinner.



ÊMM Hotel Hue - Grand Opening

ÊMM Hotel Hue, officially opening on November 30, 2016, is the third hotel under brand ÊMM - a member of Thien Minh Group (TMG), which offers customers a perfectly relaxing experience in a creative and colorful design. The new ÊMM Hotel Hue offers 72 funky, generously sized, and innovative design guest rooms, comfortable public areas, and contemporary food & beverage to deliver a unique experience and an attentive service to discerning travellers. Moreover, the addition of Yen restaurant and Chao bar will be highlights of the hotel. Travellers can enjoy the Hue culinary elite while resting beside the pool.

Grand Opening special rate: VND 800,000 ++



KPMG Vietnam Tax Institute 2016 - Danang Session

You are invited to KPMG Vietnam Tax Institute seminar on 24 November 2016 in Da Nang City, where our leading partners and directors will discuss the impact of recent regulatory updates, trends and provide their expert insights on the issues businesses should be thinking about now across corporate tax, value-added tax, indirect taxes, transfer pricing and tax dispute resolution ...



KPMG Vietnam Tax Institute 2016 - Ho Chi Minh Session

You are invited to KPMG Vietnam Tax Institute seminar on 1 December 2016 in Ho Chi Minh City, where our leading partners and directors will discuss the impact of recent regulatory updates, trends and provide their expert insights on the issues businesses should be thinking about now across corporate tax, value-added tax, indirect taxes, transfer pricing and tax dispute resolution...



KPMG Vietnam Tax Institute 2016 - Hanoi Session

You are invited to KPMG Vietnam Tax Institute seminar on 15 December 2016 in Hanoi, where our leading partners and directors will discuss the impact of recent regulatory updates, trends and provide their expert insights on the issues businesses should be thinking about now across corporate tax, value-added tax, indirect taxes, transfer pricing and tax dispute resolution...

Big gap between local companies and MNCs for compensation and benefits



With remuneration data of 244,500 employees from 557 MNCs and local organizations, the Talentnet - Mercer C&B survey continues to be the largest and the most comprehensive report in Vietnam. The report provides insightful analysis about salary increase rates, common allowances, bonuses, typical benefits by industry and level, as well as other information such as employee turnover rates, the toughest jobs to fill in 2016, difference in salary and bonus between Vietnamese companies and MNCs.

Nov 14 The Future of Trade and TPP: What You Need to Know Today



Last week, the Obama Administration gave up on its efforts to approve TPP in the U.S. Congress "lame duck" session. An expert overview of the trade environment after the U.S. elections. Nate Herman, AAFA Senior Vice President, Supply Chain, will discuss the relevance and importance of the TPP in the new environment for apparel, footwear, and travel goods.



Nov 24 16th Annual AmCham Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot Golf Outing

This fun day of golf is open to all AmCham Members and their guests! You can sign-up individually or with others members or friends and even make your own foursome. Non-Members are welcome to join as long as they are playing with at least one AmCham Member.

This Thanksgiving Day golf event will kick off at Vietnam Golf & Country Club with an 8:00am Shotgun. There are lots of prizes for all to win, and a commemorative golf cap for each participant. Products of Coca-Cola, Pepsi, and Budweiser beer will be served throughout the day and our lunch-time awards ceremony will feature a bountiful Roast Turkey spread for everyone to enjoy. Join us for a fun day out on the course ... !!



Dec 11 4th Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus is coming toSaigon! Get ready and excited once again to see Santa and welcome our friends from Binh Loi Social Center at the 4th Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa. Limited Tickets Available, so please book early:

- **Download the form**, fill in and send to Mr. Toan Nguyen: amcham.pr@amchamvietnam.com
- Buy tickets at AmCham office: New World Hotel, Floor 3, Room 323, 76 Le Lai, District 1

* A portion of every adult ticket sold will help fund the cost of a child from Binh Loi Social Center to attend the breakfast.

*Advance ticket purchase only - no sales at door; tables of 10 or 12 should be reserved in advance.

Dec 13 22nd Annual Meeting and Members' Night



In accordance with Article IV of the AmCham Charter, the Annual General Meeting of the Ho Chi Minh City Chapter will be held on Tue, Dec 13, beginning at 6:00pm, followed by a reception for the General Membership. We will conduct the following important business: (1) Report of the Chapter's Board of Governors on Activities in 2015; (2) Report of the previous years' accounts; (3) election to the Board of Governors (by secure online voting between on or about Nov 13 and Dec 13).

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 August and September 2016:

Amanoi; DTK Logistics Solutions, Groupe SEB Vietnam / Vietnam Fan JSC; Minh Pham Brothers Corporation; New Image Vietnam Co., Ltd.; QL International Education & Training Development Co., Ltd.; Ricons Construction Investment JSC; Sealed Air Diversey Care

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 **10.8K twitter followers**, 9.1K 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 Discount Program

The AmCham Discount 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



TPP benefits U.S. whiskey, auto, and country music exports from TN

Visiting Nashville, Tennessee, country music capital of the world, U.S. Trade Representative Froman said the TPP would benefit U.S. exports of Tennessee whiskey makers, auto producers and the country music industry, as he continued the administration's campaign to build support for Congressional approval of the TPP during the "lame duck" session. Tennessee's whiskey exports were valued at \$691 million in 2015, making up 65% of all U.S. whiskey exports. Import duties on spirits of up to 45% would be slashed under the agreement.



Mainstream Renewable Power, GE to Develop, Build and Operate Wind Power Plants in Vietnam

The \$1.5 billion of wind projects are expected to comprise both greenfield and partially developed sites, to include co-operation with local and international developers, and will receive financing through a Mainstream and GE Energy Financial Services joint development agreement. The aim is to compliment the 1GW initiative that GE and Ministry of Industry and Trade signed in May 2016 to accelerate large-scale Vietnamese wind project buildout.



Samsung Turns Farmers Into Bigger Earners Than Bankers

A few years ago, Nguyen Thi Dung was feeding chickens and planting rice to make ends meet in one of the poorest areas in Vietnam. This year, she expects to earn more than a typical stockbroker in the country. The difference? Samsung. "Our lives have improved dramatically since Samsung came," says the 57-year-old ex-farmer, who now rents rooms and sells groceries to assembly line workers, and expects to earn the equivalent of \$68,000 this year. "I want to buy a car and have my children drive me around."

USS John McCain visits Cam Ranh Bay



The destroyer USS John S. McCain and submarine tender USS Frank Cable visited Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam's strategically important sea port, before participating in the seventh annual Naval Engagement Activity with ships from the Vietnam People's Navy. The visit is part of recent U.S. efforts to enhance naval ties with Vietnam as it seeks to counter China's assertiveness over disputed territory in nearby waters.

GatesAir supplies Digital TV transmitters to VTV



An aggressive early adopter of DVB-T2 digital television, national broadcaster Vietnam Television (VTV) recently placed orders for transmitter network expansions. The first project comprises four GatesAir Maxiva™ UHF solid-state high-efficiency transmitters, three ULXT liquid-cooled models and one UAXT air-cooled model-for unspecified VTV channels. The second project is specific to VTV5, a specialty channel serving ethnic minority communities. That project comprises two Maxiva ULXT liquid-cooled transmitters.

Prime Minister approves National Committee on Trade Facilitation



On Oct 4, 2016. The NCTF, based on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Art. 23.2, will facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the TFA. The establishment of the NCTF, conclusion of a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement between Vietnam and U.S. customs authorities, and establishment of meaningful public-private consultations regarding import/export procedures in Vietnam have been the top priorities of the Vietnam Trade Facilitation Alliance, a partnership between USAID, VCCI, and AmCham.

Prime Minister approves Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation



Plan on Oct 13, under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister Vương Đình Huệ. With the WTO TFA expected to enter into effect soon, the plan includes Working Groups for TFA commitments, including transparency, fees and procedures, freedom of transit, customs cooperation and mutual assistance, special and differential treatment, institutional arrangements, etc. When implemented, the Trade Facilitation Agreement will reduce Vietnam's trade costs by 20%, according to a WTO report.

Vietnam's 2017 Minimum Wage Proposal



The proposed Minimum Wage Adjustment for 2017, the fourth since the establishment of the National Wage Council under the revised Labour Code of 2012, is an average increase of 7.3%, down from 12.4% in 2016. It will be submitted to the Government for discussion and approval at the next regular meeting, scheduled for September, and go into effect on Jan 1, 2017.

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."



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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