



## TPP is not dead; Minimum Wage 2017; Annual General Meeting

### FEATURES



#### TPP is not dead: Sen. Orrin Hatch, Rep. Kevin Brady, Rep. Dave Reichert

President-elect Trump said he would withdraw from TPP on his first day in office. Japan's PM Abe said the TPP would be meaningless without U.S. participation. House Ways & Means Chairman Kevin Brady, Trade Subcommittee Chairman Dave Reichert, and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch say TPP is still possible. Asked how he plans to persuade Trump to reconsider his stance on the Asia-Pacific deal, Hatch said, "well, I'm fairly persuasive sometimes."



#### Vietnam's 2017 Minimum Wage Decree

Vietnam's 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 12.5% in 2016. It was announced in Decree 153/2016/NĐ-CP, 14/11/2016, and will go into effect on Jan 1, 2017. One difficulty: enterprises' expenditures will increase sharply, because they not only must adjust monthly salary for their workers but also must increase their contribution to social insurance. At the present, total social insurance takes up 32% of monthly salary, of which employers must pay 22%.



#### TET Lunar New Year, 2017 . Jan 26 - Feb 1 - Seven Days

Traditionally, there are several main days of celebration: Tết Lunar New Year's Eve (Jan 27), and The First (Jan 28), Second (Jan 29), and Third (Jan 30), Fourth (Jan 31), and Fifth (Feb 1) of Tết Nguyen Đán. Vietnamese traditionally celebrate Tết from the fifteenth day of the twelfth lunar month to the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. And, even today, business slows two weeks before and two weeks after TET. The official 2017 TET Holidays in Vietnam are from Thu, Jan 26 to Wed, Feb 1 inclusive.



#### ILA Vietnam - education training centers

HPEF Capital, formerly Headland Capital Partners, and other shareholders of Vietnam-based education company ILA Vietnam are seeking to sell the business for \$150 million. First-round bids will be made by the end of this year, according to a Bloomberg report.



## Renew membership, update your 2017 Membership Directory profile

Renew your membership NOW and have your company profile updated in **2017 Membership Directory**. And, 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
- Publishing date: April 2017

We offer **FREE ADVERTISEMENT** on [www.amchamvietnam.com](http://www.amchamvietnam.com) for any booking and payment made before December 15, 2016. Contact *Cindy Tran* for more details and booking.



## 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.

## Events, Meetings, Special Offers



## Christmas Package Delivery

Our team of chefs have created a variety of special Christmas packages conveniently delivered to your home

- Seasonal canape - 60\$ (60 pieces)
- Whole roast turkey 5-6kg - 90\$ (6-8 persons)
- Delivery turkey menu - 195\$ (8-10 persons)

## 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.



## 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.



## 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.

On 6th December 2016, LABOUR LAW AND SOCIAL INSURANCE SEMINAR, hosted by Payroll & HR Outsourcing - Talentnet will be hold in GEM Center, Ho Chi Minh City. The seminar will feature the difference between theory and court's perspective in common labor disputes. Companies could take it as a chance to have direct questions to our keynote speakers.



### Seafood Galore Buffet Dinner @ Café Central An Dong

At Café Central An Dong of Windsor Plaza Hotel, seafood lovers can delight with favorite seafood dishes on the nightly Seafood Galore Buffet. It is truly an amazing international feast highlighting seafood specialties from the hotel's talented culinary team using a wide variety of fresh and flavorful imported and locally-sourced seafood including lobster, oysters, king prawns, salmon, blue crab and much more.



### Special Offer for AmCham Members at AmCham Governors' Ball

InterContinental Asiana Saigon has a special offer to AmCham members who will attend **AmCham Governors' Ball** on this upcoming Saturday, Dec 10th:

- Very attractive and special rate of 2,500,000 VND nett/ room night
- Including Deluxe Room, high speed internet, early check in at 1:00 PM and late check out at 3:00 PM
- Applied for the night of Dec 10th for **AmCham** guests attending **AmCham Governors' Ball** event only

For booking, please email to [resvn@icasianasaigon.com](mailto:resvn@icasianasaigon.com) or call 3520 9999



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

The 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball will be organized 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.

Thanks to our TOP SPONSORS: **Amway, Becamex, Coca-Cola, InterContinental Asiana Saigon, Suntory Pepsi, Vietnam Waste Solutions, AIM, Amanoi, ANA/United Airlines, Baker & McKenzie, Cathay Pacific, Hyster Truong Phat, INTEL Products Vietnam, Metkraft, Procter & Gamble, Victoria Healthcare, and Walmart.**



### Dec 11 4th Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus is coming to ....Saigon! 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](mailto: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 2016; (2) Report of the previous years' accounts; (3) election to the Board of Governors (by secure online voting between on or about Nov 21 and Dec 13).



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

## 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 October and November 2016:

*GO Fintech LLC*  
*Hoa Binh Construction and Real Estate*  
*An Loc Nguyen Co., LTD*  
*Bolloré Logistics Vietnam Co., Ltd.*  
*The Representative Office of Baxco Pharmaceutical, Inc in HCMC*  
*AIA (Vietnam) Life Insurance*  
*Digital Age Dental Laboratories Co., Ltd*  
*Fujita Corporation*  
*Premium Deluxe Design Limited*  
*Emeritus*  
*HDBANK*

## 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](http://www.amchamvietnam.com): 720K views/yr; 360K visitors/yr (avg. 60K / 30K visitors/views per month) and **10.9K twitter followers**, 9.4K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.7k 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](#).

## News and Issues



### Cut and Sew Vietnam

Providing Low Cost, Hi Quality, Custom Made to Order Products from Approved Vietnam Manufacturers to our Worldwide Client Base.

This includes a host of "cut and sew products" in all types of textile, garments, apparel and complimentary industries such as: Corporate Logo Wear items, Bags and Backpacks, Uniforms, Sportswear, Hats, T-Shirts, Swimwear, Pet Apparel, Handicrafts, and anything and everything that requires the use of needle, thread and sewing machines.

Contact us at <http://cutandsew-vietnam.com>



### Homeland Security Chief Cites Phishing as Top Hacking Threat

Why are people still such suckers for phishing? At a security event in New York this week, top law enforcement officials shared their concerns, and their biggest pre-occupation was plain old e-mail. "The most devastating attacks by the most sophisticated attackers almost always begin with the simple act of spear-phishing," Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told the crowd, referring to malicious emails that appear to come from a credible source. He has a point. The debacle over leaked emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman began when the chairman, John Podesta, fell for a fake Gmail message. So what can we do about it?



### After the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a perspective from Vietnam

President Obama has announced that he will no longer seek passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Congress, leaving the fate of the treaty in the hands of President-elect Trump and the Congressional Republican leadership.

This matters for two reasons. First, within a decade, four of the five largest economies of the world will border the Pacific Ocean. The United States will be able to continue its global leadership role only if it retains an integral, active presence in the Pacific. Second, if the United States retreats from the region, as a defeat of TPP in Congress would surely signal, an emboldened China will ever more aggressively seek to displace America.



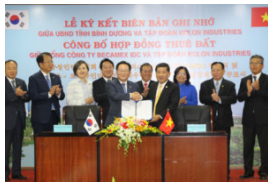
### Chile, Swaziland the 97th and 98th WTO members to ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement

Chile and Swaziland submitted their instruments of acceptance to WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, making them the 97th and 98th WTO members to do so. The TFA will enter into effect when 2/3 (108) of the 162 WTO members have ratified the agreement.



## TAL: Back to the future through Vietnam

TAL Apparel's \$50 million plant in Vietnam opened in October, can produce 16,000,000 shirts annually, in 100,000 variations, when output ramps up in the future, part of Vietnam's bid to join apparel global supply chains and employ millions. But the biggest news is across the road, where construction is under way on a \$320 million TAL textile mill, part of an integrated operation from yarn dyeing to fabric weaving to finishing



## Korea's Kolon Industries to invest \$1 billion in Binh Duong, Vietnam

To develop a factory manufacturing airbags and industrial fabric for automobile tires, aiming to capture a larger share of the domestic and international market. Kolon Industries will rent a 42-hectare area in Becamex IDC's expanded Bau Bang Industrial Park to construct the factory. The long-term investment plan has three phases. The first phase, with a total investment capital of \$220 million, will be disbursed in the 2017-2018 period, the second phase will last until 2026 with \$600 million. The \$1 billion mark will be hit sometime after 2026.



## Vietnam to apply extensive area code changes in 2017

Area code changes in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Dong Nai, Binh Duong, and a number of other provinces will take place on June 17, 2017. The new area codes will be applied for 59 cities and provinces in three phases, from February 11 to June 17, with steps taken to ensure the change will not confuse the public, the Ministry of Information and Communications announced. But there are other concerns, such as the need to reprint packaging or business cards once numbers are changed, costing quite a sum.



## Debunking the Myth about US Scholarships and Admissions Process

It is that time of year again. As the calendar turns to December, students are busy making one of the most important decisions of their lives about where to go to college. It is also when misleading articles crop up and some college counselors start to prey on the hopes and dreams of parents and students. Since we care about what is best for the entire student community whether they work with us or not, we want to write this article to provide unbiased information so students and parents can make informed decisions.



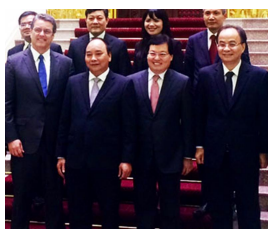
## Investment Funds - Call for Proposals - Overseas Private Investment Corp.

Call Objectives: OPIC seeks to select profitable funds with positive developmental impact through a competitive and transparent process. Selected funds will target unlisted investments in OPIC-eligible countries that support growth, expansion, business development, spin-outs, management buyouts, restructuring, and/or privatizations. The Call for Proposals is open to managers from all regions and strategies.



## Vietnam delays TPP ratification, but not international integration

"The United States has announced it suspends the submission of TPP to the Congress so there are not sufficient conditions for Vietnam to submit its proposal for ratification," Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc told the National Assembly on Nov 17. "We are ready to join the TPP but with or without this trade deal, Vietnam will remain on the international integration path."



## 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.



## 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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AmCham Vietnam | [herb.cochran@amchamvietnam.com](mailto:herb.cochran@amchamvietnam.com) | <http://www.amchamvietnam.com>  
New World Hotel Saigon #323  
76 Le Lai Street, District 1  
Ho Chi Minh City