



FedEx CEO supports TPP, World Bank: Vietnam's Economic Outlook, Raffle Prize Winners, Renew Membership

FEATURES



Photo Album, List of Winners of Raffle Prizes and Silent Auction - 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball

The 21st Annual AmCham Governors' Ball was organized successfully last Sat, Dec 10 at the InterContinental Asiana Saigon Hotel. We welcomed almost 420 participants. We have had many favorable comments about the dinner, the decorations, and the entertainment, and many guests stayed until the very end! **Thank you very much again to our Ball Sponsors who contributed cash, products, and services to help add to the success of the evening. Through your support, the Governors' Ball raised over US \$45,000 in net proceeds, all of which will go to support AmCham Scholarship Program.**



Photo Album - 4th Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa

Organized on the morning following the Governors' Ball, the 4th Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa again attracted more than 360 participants, in which 220 children were happy to meet Santa, spend time at Kid Corners, dance with elves on the stage, and enjoy a scrumptious breakfast at the 5-star Intercontinental Asiana Hotel.

This is a pure charity event, and a portion of every adult ticket sold for this special holiday family occasion helped fund the cost of a child from the Binh Loi Association to attend the Breakfast.



FedEx CEO suggests revised TPP, with improvements

in a speech in Washington on Dec 9. There are two important takeaways from the speech. (1) It shows that the corporate establishment is going to take a hardline on issues like NAFTA. Smith made a vigorous defense of the TPP agreement. (2) Republican members of the House voted 190 to 50 in June 2016 to give the President "Trade Promotion Authority" for TPP, which shows that free trade deals are popular with Republicans. With Democrats out of power in Washington, and Trump's administration increasingly staffed by establishment figures, the President-elect could have a lonely fight on his hands if he attempts to dismantle the free-trade status quo.



World Bank: Structural reforms remain critical to Vietnam's growth

Thanks to robust domestic demand and export-oriented manufacturing, Vietnam's medium-term outlook remains favorable, with GDP expected to expand by 6% this year. Vietnam's growth was accompanied by low inflation and widening current account surplus. Risks that could adversely affect medium term prospects include perennial delays in implementation of structural and fiscal reforms.

A fun-filled getaway to the heard of Central Vietnam



Enjoy a family vacation with a host of recreational activities! Immerse yourself in our award-winning spa treatment or challenge yourself to a game of golf at our championship 18-hole golf course. A fun-filled vacation beckons!

From now till 22 December 2016, book your two-night stay from VND 14,000,000 nett* and receive resort credits worth VND 1,000,000 and other perks!
*Applicable to residents of Vietnam, for Two-bedroom category.
Terms and conditions apply.

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 for any booking and payment made before December 30, 2016. Contact Cindy Tran for more details and booking.

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

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
30	31					
THÁNG 2/2017						
Thứ hai	Thứ ba	Thứ tư	Thứ năm	Thứ sáu	Thứ bảy	Chủ nhật
		1	2	3	4	5

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.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers

Festive Greetings from Caravelle Saigon



Celebrate Christmas and New Year in style and join us for good food, fine wine and festive cheer. Make sure you book ahead!

It's Time To Celebrate at Shang Palace !



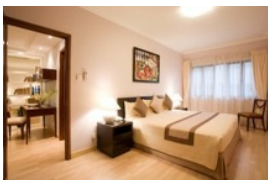
With 2016 coming to a close, let's start planning parties with family, friends and colleagues after a year of hard work! Shang Palace Restaurant is delighted to offer a wide range of dining options and packages in an upscale setting. Whether it's a Christmas and New Year celebration or Tet family get-togethers, Shang Palace is an ideal rendezvous for all of your special occasions.

It's Christmas Time at Norfolk Hotel !



Let's gather family and friends celebrating Christmas in style with our Signature Holiday Package, available until December 31, 2016. Along with delightful Christmas turn-down amenities overflowing the spirit of festivities, an exclusive Christmas Dinner pairing with our special mocktail are designed to fill your stay with unforgettable merriments.

Festive Merriments at Norfolk Mansion !



As Christmas is just around the corner, let's get into the spirit of festivities and enjoy all the fun at Norfolk Mansion with our Signature Holiday Package ... available until December 31, 2016, including:

- Welcome greeting drink & daily fresh fruit
- International daily breakfast buffet for two adults plus one child at Terrazzo Cafe
- An exclusive Christmas Dinner for two adults plus one child pairing with special-designed Christmas mocktail or sparkling wine at Terrazzo Cafe.



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.



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. (On behalf of ANA & United Viet Nam)



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)



2017 AmCham Discount Program

The AmCham Discount Program is a mutually beneficial opportunity for both Discount Partners and AmCham Members who are representatives of 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.

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: 720K views/yr; 360K visitors/yr (avg. 60K / 30K views/visitors per month) and **11.0K 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



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%.



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.



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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.

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



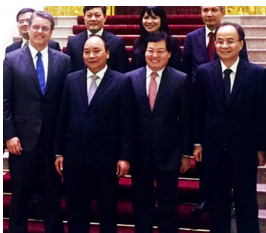
To develop a factory manufacturing airbags and industrial fabric for automobile tires, aiming to capture a larger share of the domestic and international market. Kolon Industries will rent a 42-hectare area in Becamex IDC's expanded Bau Bang Industrial Park to construct the factory. The long-term investment 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.

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.



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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