



## New Board Members, Renew Membership, Update profile for Directory

### FEATURES



#### Election Results, Annual General Meeting 2016

The 2017 Board of Governors of AmCham Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City) will have 18 Governors. Nine governors were elected in on-line secure voting between Nov 21 and the Annual General Meeting on Dec 13, 2016 to a two-year term January 2017 - December 2018.



#### 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 30, 2016. Contact Cindy Tran for more details and booking.

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

#### 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.



#### A Fun-Filled Getaway To The Heart of Central Vietnam

Experience spontaneous fun at Angsana Lăng Cô, Central Vietnam. Angsana Lăng Cô is the perfect destination for every member of the family to enjoy a blissful and fun-filled holiday where little ones can enjoy outdoor activities such as sandcastle building and bungee trampoline - all with professional supervision- while Mom and Dad recharge with a refreshing massage treatment.

## 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.

## Events, Meetings, Special Offers

24, 25 & 31/12/2016 - 01 & 02/01/2017  
New Year's Eve  
DJ Countdown Party  
SEASONS GREETINGS  
at Flamingo Dai Lai Resort  
FLAMINGO DAI LAI RESORT \*\*\*\*\*  
Hotline: (+84)98 600 9393  
resort.flamingodailai.com



## Festive Greetings from Caravelle Saigon

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



## 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.

## Aetna International establishes Innovation Hub for Asia



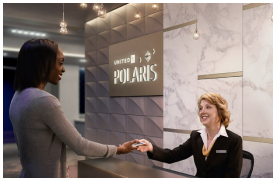
Aetna International, the leading health care insurer, is establishing an Innovation Hub for Asia, based in Singapore. The Innovation Hub will focus on leveraging local expertise and customer feedback to develop tailored solutions for Asian markets, based on Aetna's existing global product offerings. Specifically aimed at local healthcare market needs in regional markets including Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong and Singapore, the bespoke solutions developed by the Innovation Hub will allow Aetna to offer greater value and service to the local populations, which in turn, is expected to increase awareness of its products and expand its footprint in the region.



## Advanced Purchase Promotion to North America from HCM City

Korean Air, is one of the world's top 20 airlines and carried more than 24 million passengers in 2015. Korean Air operates over 460 flights per day to 132 cities in 46 countries on six continents with a fleet of 174 aircraft including ten A380s. With its modern aircraft and over 20,000 professional employees, Korean Air offers customers convenience and comfort. Korean Air's award-winning

offerings of Korean and international meals and state-of-the-art inflight entertainment system provide passengers with a memorable inflight experience.



## 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)



## 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](http://www.amchamvietnam.com): 720K views/yr; 360K visitors/yr (avg. 60K / 30K views/visitors per month) and **11.0K twitter followers**, 9.5K 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](#).





## President's long-forgotten power to raise tariffs

There is a long forgotten but still intact statute that provides the President with broad tariff-setting authority. This authority, Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930 [Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act], is not mentioned in the "Overview and Compilation of U.S. Trade Statutes" published annually by the U.S. Congress. And although Section 338 has gone unused for decades, it remains on the statute books and is available to the president.



## 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. ....



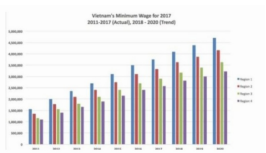
## Cut and Sew Vietnam

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>



## 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%.

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.

**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.

**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.

**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**




**Bronze**





**RUSSIN & VECCHI**

**SEAMOC INC.**

Corporate  
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Sponsors

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