



U.S. - Vietnam Trade Talks establish working groups

FEATURES



U.S., Vietnam renew trade dialogue during Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Meetings

The United States and Vietnam met on March 27-28 under their Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to discuss deepening trade ties between the two nations as well as address outstanding bilateral trade issues. The United States also used the meeting as an opportunity to reaffirm the Trump Administration's commitment to expanding ties with the Asia-Pacific region, including with Vietnam. Agriculture and Food Safety and other working groups were established.



Clean energy - much potential, but lack pricing mechanism

Electricity of Vietnam (EVN) has recently proposed putting forth a mechanism for auctions of renewable energy projects from 2020 onwards, to give impetus to the development of this industry.



Blog: Does U.S. medical research subsidize other countries?

Leading U.S. business and political leaders strongly believe that without adequate IP protection important U.S. industries would be undermined, and many high-technology jobs and companies would disappear. The U.S. produced 57% of the world's new medicines between 2001 and 2010, up from less than a third in the 1970s, the Milken Institute reported in 2011.



Creditors adjust growth forecasts

The survey on business trends of credit institutions conducted from February 25 to March 9 by the SBV's Statistics and Forecasting Department questioned all credit institutions and branches of foreign banks nationwide. The rate of response was 89.5 per cent.



Twitter makes room for more characters in tweets

Twitter on Thursday (Mar 30) began rolling out changes to let people pack more into tweets, subtracting from the character count names of those being replied to in posts. The latest software modification at the one-to-many messaging service comes about a year after Twitter set out to relax a 140-character limit set due to mobile phone text messaging constraints in place when Twitter launched in 2006



Apr 13 Members' Night with Special Guests and U.S. Consulate General @ ENVY Club

AmCham invites you to the first AmCham Members Night event of 2017 with Special Guests including the U.S. Consulate General staff on Thursday, April 13, 2017. Please plan to join the networking cocktail reception at 5:45pm at ENVY Club's modern event space, 74-76 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia Street, District 1, HCMC.

This will be our special opportunity to introduce you our recently joined members. After a Panel Discussion about how to continue advancing the US/VN trade and investment relationship and opportunities provided by Vietnam hosting APEC this year, a cocktail reception will offer networking opportunities for one-on-one conversations with the Consulate General Team, AmCham Governors/Network Leaders, and fellow members.

Events, Meetings, Special Offers



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 175 aircraft including ten A380s.

The airline is a founding member of the Sky Team airline alliance, which together with its 20 members, offers its 665 million annual passengers a worldwide system of more than 17,343 daily flights covering 1,062 destinations in 177 countries.



2 weeks left for promotion fares to North America

Don't miss out our promotion fares to save up to 35% on business class, starting from USD2,428 (tax & surcharges excluded) and even more on economy class, starting from USD469 (tax & surcharges excluded). Your journey will be more convenient with our worldwide routes to 8 exciting destinations in the US and Canada on 125 direct flights weekly from Hong Kong, connecting to many more points in North America. **Book** by 23 April 2017 to enjoy our supersaver fares.



Sunday Brunch at New World Saigon Hotel

New World Saigon Hotel invites you for a splendid Sunday Brunch at Parkview featuring lavish buffets with signature dishes like Foie Gras terrine, French Oysters, Canadian Lobster, US Beef sirloin, Yorkshire pudding and our famous red wine gravy combined with live jazz music, complimentary swimming pool entrance, kid corners and sweet surprises.

Every Sunday, 11.30a.m. - 3.30p.m. VND1,200,000+ 16% per adult / VND600,000+ 16% (below 12).

Complimentary for children below 6.

10% discount for Amcham members.

Contact us: (08) 3829 4000



Long Hau Corporation is the Golden prize winner of the 2016 National Quality Award

At the 2016 National Quality Award, our Prime minister awarded to 77 enterprises, including 15 Golden winners and 62 Silver winners. Long Hau Corporation (LHC) is one of the 15 Golden winners of the 2016 National Quality Award.

The award takes place annually to honor enterprises with outstanding achievements in advancing product quality, service, competitive nature and performance. They contribute greatly to our community and society, integrate with regional and global economy.



Apr 16 Easter Brunch and Dinner at Hotel Equatorial HCM

Indulge in the freshest seafood, roasted meats, international dishes as well as all-day breakfast and desserts to celebrate Easter 2017

EASTER BRUNCH: The perfect family brunch with kids mealtime favourites, chocolate bar and fountain, homemade ice cream, floats, waffles, cotton candy and pancakes!

Easter Egg Hunt: Kids enjoying our brunch can join our Easter egg hunt, Easter egg decorating and pose for photo with our Easter Bunny.

EASTER DINNER BUFFET: Enjoy a sumptuous Easter Dinner Buffet with an extravagant spread of seafood, salads, appetisers, International and Asian cuisines, grill station, cheeses, Easter treats and our extensive dessert station.



Le Meridien Saigon Promotions April, May, June 2017

KUAN'S COOKING CLASS: Discover Bamboo Chic's latest secrets in the company of Chef Lai Kuan Geo and his hands on cooking class experience. T

LM AFTER-WORK SERIES: (Thursday: Wine + Cheese; Friday: Craft Beer Bash; Saturday: Tapas@9) is a playground to unwind after a busy office day.

TASTE OF AUSTRALIA: Visit Latest Recipe and explore our Taste of Australia culinary journey. Feast on a range of enticing dishes made from the freshest ingredients from Australia.

GLOBAL EARTH HOUR EVENT 2017: Le Méridien Saigon Hotel joined millions around the world for Earth Hour 2017



AmCham Women In Engineering Scholarship 2017 Survey

The American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (AmCham Vietnam) is going to re-activate AmCham Women in Engineering Scholarship - a scholarship for female students in Engineering majors at universities - after a pending year of 2016. However, we are wondering whether a scholarship for female students only would still match demands from companies and industries in engineering field or not. Therefore we need your opinion for better organization of the scholarship. Please kindly complete this form before April 5 2017. We commit to keep all your responses in this form confidential.

Visit [here](#) for more information about ACWES 2015. Thank you.



Apr 12 Property market Overview Q1.2017

CBRE Property market Overview Q1.2017 is an in-depth analysis of one, or more, property sectors in a specific geographic area during the first three months of 2017. By analyzing the current situation and evaluating the future potential within the sector, the workshop will help provide actionable intelligence to make an informed decision.



Apr 19 2017 Consumer Trends: A shift from tradition to transition

In 2017, did you know that (1) Consumer confidence has stalled?, (2) Mobile data search is now the 2nd highest info sourcing tool?, (3) 40% of urban Vietnamese took out loans?, (4) Healthcare spend is shifting from reactive to proactive cures?

Join us and hear Mr. Ralf Matthaes, Infocus Mekong Research Founder/Managing Director giving insight into a shift in consumer trends and an annual overview of Vietnam's economy.



JOIN US: Become a Member of AmCham Vietnam - HCMC

***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 **11.4K twitter followers**, 9.7K 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 Premium Membership Packages

The AmCham Premium Membership comes with a range of membership dues, which include events, advertising, and other exclusive benefits. One all-inclusive Premium Membership annual, semi-annual, or quarterly billing simplifies your company's administration efforts. Premium Membership Benefits include:

- Logo on "Premium Membership" banner on AmCham website homepage
- Logo on "Premium Membership" banner in Weekly Update Email
- Company profile on the "Premium Membership" 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 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](#).

News and Issues



TPP may not be entirely dead

U.S. to pursue bilateral FTAs with key TPP partners. President Trump's USTR nominee, Robert Lighthizer, told the Senate Finance Committee in questions for the record following his confirmation hearing in mid March that "The President has made it very clear that he intends to promote American leadership in the Asia-Pacific through many channels, including by pursuing bilateral FTAs with our key TPP partners. I support that approach."



Harvard University expands co-operation with Vietnamese universities

Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust yesterday met with leaders of HCM City University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH) to extend co-operation between the two schools in the upcoming time.

USSH rector Vo Van Sen said the two universities should continue their research about sustainable development in the Mekong Delta and Vietnam's reform during global integration.



Enfinity wind power project investor still committed to Vietnam plan

Enfinity Ninh Thuan, the investor of the \$266 million wind farm project in the central province of Ninh Thuan, met with the Ninh Thuan People's Committee once again to resolve all the pending issues to enable its delayed project to quickly make progress.



Ministry imposes anti-dumping duties on steel from China

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) has issued a decree imposing temporary anti-dumping duties on H-shaped steel products imported from China.

H-shaped steel is used to make support beams at construction projects, girders for containers and trucks, steel decks and chassis.



WB pledges \$1.8 billion in 2017 assistance

The World Bank (WB) will earmark US\$1.8 billion for Việt Nam in 2017 to support the nation's poverty reduction, water resource management, agricultural development and urban improvement efforts.

Visiting WB CEO Kristalina Georgieva said this in Hanoi yesterday as she met with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and National Assembly Chairwoman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan.



Customs plans tighter checks on imported steel products

The General Department of Customs has just asked its officials to strengthen checks on imported steel products after a series of reports on steel firms submitting incorrect declarations about product codes.



Understanding the VN law on cross-border web sharing

One of the government policies on the management, provision and use of internet services and online information, under Decree No 72/2013/ND-CP dated July 15, 2013, states that only information in accordance with Vietnamese laws may be transmitted to internet users within Viet Nam, even if it is cross-border transmission.



APEC 2017: opportunities for VN's businesses

The participation of top regional economies and businesses in the business forums and meetings in the APEC Viet Nam Year 2017 creates opportunities for all sides to advertise their potentials and share management measures to effectively join the global value chain.



A new paradigm for Asia-Pacific Trade ... ?

Wendy Cutler, vice president of the Asia Society Policy Institute and a former diplomat and negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, tells us what to expect from the meetings in Chile. As Acting Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, Cutler played a major role in forming TPP - particularly with the bilateral negotiations with Japan.



FDI firms praise Vietnam's reform efforts

Foreign direct investment (FDI) firms operating in Vietnam highly evaluated the reform efforts the government, ministries, sectors and localities have made to create a more favourable and healthier business climate, experts have said.



2017 update on foreign mega investment projects in Vietnam

Trang Vu updates on all the new developments at the billion dollar projects licensed between 2006 and 2016 that were valid as of February 2016 at the time we posted [this article](#). Projects that were finished and have seen no new developments are omitted.



Vietnamese tea firms eye US market

Representatives of tea-growing regions and tea companies in Viet Nam recently took part in a seminar in New York to seek opportunities to enter the US market.

At the conference, experts spoke about Viet Nam's long history of growing tea and the huge potential for Viet Nam's tea products in the US market. Peter Goggi, president of the US Tea Association, said the US is a potential market for Viet Nam, provided its high standards for quality and food safety can be fulfilled.



New decree to thwart BEPS practices

2017 marks a critical turning point in transfer pricing-related practices in Vietnam. To introduce regulatory changes challenging Base Erosion Profit Shifting practices, the government has recently issued Decree No.20/2017/ND-CP on the management of transfer pricing, applicable from May 1, 2017. KPMG in Vietnam discusses the implications of this sea-change.



Green technology becomes focus of firms to secure a place in Vietnam's energy future

Foreign firms have shown increasing interest in supplying environmentally-friendly equipment for coal-fired power plants in Vietnam, as coal looks to retain its hold on the national power grid over the next decade.



Food security high on agenda of SOM1's second session

The First APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM1) entered its second working day in the south central province of Khanh Hoa's Nha Trang city on March 3 with a series of issues high on the agenda, including food security and climate change.



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 - 2016

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, opinions expressed by business and political leaders on race and investment issues, and 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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