



Japan to support 11-nation TPP at Hanoi meetings

FEATURES



Japan to support 11-nation TPP at Hanoi meetings in May

Trade ministers from 11 countries which agreed to join the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) will meet in Hanoi May 19 - 20, as moves to resurrect the trade deal gather pace. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe warned in November 2016 that without the world's largest economy the TPP "has no meaning". But Japan's position appears to have changed. Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso gave a speech in New York confirming trade ministers from the other TPP countries would meet in May to discuss the deal, which he said offered more than bilateral trade negotiations. After the February meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President Trump, their joint statement referred to Japan "continuing to advance regional progress on the basis of existing initiatives". In other words, Mr Trump gave his blessing for Japan to try to keep TPP going.



Jun 7 Meet the USA Southern VN Conference: How to Continue Growth in US-VN Trade Relations

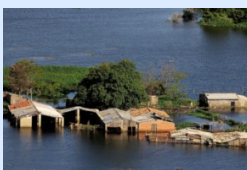
This is a sideline event of APEC 2017 organized by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the U.S. Embassy, the U.S. Consulate, and AmCham Vietnam in HCMC, on June 07, 2017 at the InterContinental Saigon, from 8:00am to 11:30am, followed by a buffet lunch.

"Meet the USA 2017" Conference, themed "How to Continue Growth in US-Vietnam Trade Relations", will bring together provincial leaders and U.S. company representatives to share their successful stories and/or projects they did/have been done, and their development plan in Vietnam. Leaders from top 21 provinces will be present to meet with you. Officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Health will also participate in this event.



Australia, Trump, and TPP

The TPP itself is, in essence, a series of bilateral commitments under a plurilateral umbrella. Attached to it are a series of bilateral exchanges of letters between some of the members on specific commitments, perhaps a similar device could be used to "tweak" the TPP sufficiently to allow US ratification. Alternatively, in the absence of the TPP, there may be scope for the new US Administration to take a greater leadership role in APEC, an organisation which does important work in enhancing regional economic integration and removing behind-the-border barriers to trade. Importantly, APEC does this through promoting business linkages and voluntary means rather than imposing binding legal rules.



It's Like It Never Left: Another El Niño May Be on the Way

Less than a year after one of the strongest El Niños on record, forecasters see an increasing possibility that another will begin later this year.

There is no word yet on how strong a new El Niño might be, but even a mild one could affect weather patterns around the world. Among the potential effects are wetter conditions across the southern United States, including Southern California; a drier Midwest; and drought in parts of Africa, Asia and South America.



Online shoppers use mobile phones more than computers

There are more people using mobile phones to shop online than those using desktops or tablets, reported Bizweb at a recent mobile e-commerce event.



Trade deficit increases day by day

Vietnam's trade deficit is becoming a burning problem as the country's new free trade agreements are coming into effect.

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.



R&J redefines Italian Fine Dining with new Chef and new Singer

The recently redesigned R&J Italian Lounge & Restaurant is proud to welcome a new Chef de Cuisine and an international Jazz singer to the Italian fine dining restaurant. Taking the helm of the kitchen, Chef Tonino Giglio, an Italian native with culinary experiences throughout Asia, presents a full range of flavourful, home-style Italian dishes. While in the lounge, LaDee Streeter performs classic and contemporary jazz as well as hits spanning the genres of R&B, blues, and pop during Colours of Jazz, every Tuesday through Sunday night from 8:30pm to 11:30pm.



Summer Escape 2017

Make this summer one to remember by exploring the length of Vietnam by land, sea and air! Whether your idea of a perfect holiday is relaxing by the beach, hiking in the mountains or cruising the waterways, you can truly have it all with our #SummerEscape 2017 special deals. All of Vietnam can be yours this summer with 13 packages at premium properties across the country:

- * Victoria Hotels & Resorts: Sapa - Phan Thiet - Can Tho - Chau Doc
- * EMM Hotels & Resorts: Saigon - Hoi An - Hue
- * Emeraude Cruise
- * Hai Au Aviation
- * Mai Chau Lodge
- * L'Azalée Cruises



May 1 College Decision Day

May 1 is National College Decision when high school students have to commit to the college where they have been accepted. Those who applied early decision committed months ago when they were accepted while others with multiple regular decision acceptances had to commit to one school. There are many factors in the decision making process but the most important factor is fit. To understand fit, it is helpful for students to visit the schools.



Why (Want to, How to) Invest in Vietnam? - Hear from KPMG experts

Join KPMG webinars to learn about the opportunities and issues related to investing in Vietnam in 2017! Registration is free and instant.



May 9 Pensions, investments and savings planning - What Americans abroad need to know

The topic will be presented by Mr. Wayne Ellis representing the Tilney Group and Infinity Financial Solutions.

Part 1: Defining the problems and why Americans need to act.

This section will explore the background to why Americans overseas are facing difficulties effectively managing their pensions, investments and savings plans.

Part 2: How to make tax filing a piece of cake.

Part 3: Keeping your investments fully compliant.

Tilleke & Gibbins

May 10 The ABCs of Internal Labor Rules and Disciplinary Hearings

Vietnam's labor laws tend to be employee-friendly and formalistic, which can make discipline and dismissals of employees a very difficult process - even in cases of corruption or criminal conduct. As a counter-balance to this situation, it is vital for companies to have well-drafted internal labor rules and a solid understanding of employee disciplinary procedures.



May 24 Morning Briefing with Q&A: Visa Procedures for Business Travel to the U.S.

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July 1 23rd Annual AmCham U.S. Independence Day Celebration & Family Picnic

Join AmCham members, friends and family to enjoy a celebration of our traditional American holiday and cultural event that is celebrated all across the USA, in big cities and small towns. We are hoping to welcome over 1,000 people to the celebration for a great late morning/early afternoon of Fun, Food and Drinks, Live Music, Games and Great Prizes. Ticket price includes - A delicious "American Fare" Barbecue, Pizza, Cakes, Ice Cream ... and much more. ALSO included is unlimited, Beer, Wine, Pepsi & Coke Products, Coffees. PLUS...Live Bands performing throughout the afternoon and a terrific "Kids Corner" with fun activities, face painting and bouncy castles.



Sep 22-24 AmCham Family Weekend at JWMarriott Phu Quoc

The JW Marriott Phu Quoc Emerald Bay Resort & Spa is a 5-star luxury, quirky style and an unparalleled location. Famed Architect Bill Bensley has designed the resort to pay homage to the fictional historic Lamarck University, with a whimsical ambiance that is utterly unique. All of its 244 rooms and suites are extraordinary in their individuality; most feature breathtaking views of the bay, and all offer plush bedding and free Wi-Fi.

Join AmCham members of both chapters, HCMC and Hanoi, friends and family to enjoy a two night weekend stay at JWMarriott Phu Quoc. More details and registration form will be sent to you shortly. SAVE THE DAY!

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 **11.5K twitter followers**, 9.8K 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.

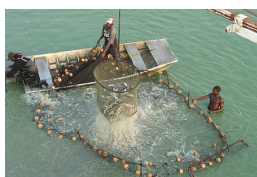
By offering AmCham Members special discounts on services or products, Discount Partners can enjoy marketing opportunities through listing freely and/or placing an advertisement on the [Discount Handbook & Online](#).

News and Issues



Vietnam, U.S. renew high-level cooperation

President Trump will visit Vietnam for the November APEC Leaders meeting, in response to Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang's invitation, U.S. Secretary of State Tillerson and National Security Council (NSC) Advisor McMaster confirmed to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh during his official visit to Washington on Apr 20-21. NSC Advisor McMaster also conveyed President Trump's invitation to Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to visit the U.S.



USDA Inspection of Siluriformes fish, including catfish, full enforcement from Sep 1, 2017

After an 18-month transition period, full enforcement of USDA inspection of siluriformes fish, including catfish will begin on Sep 1, 2017. According to some Vietnam news reports, "the change will have potentially disastrous consequences for Vietnam catfish producers, because while the FDA does spot checks on a small sample of imports as they arrive, the USDA requires on-site inspections of production facilities. For countries like Vietnam, setting up an equivalent system could take years and effectively cripple the industry."



GE's Energy Ecosystem to help meet Vietnam 2030 power targets

The GE Energy Ecosystem portfolio has been unveiled at the Powering Vietnam conference in Hanoi, resonating interconnected system of digital and industrial technologies with country's energy agenda to deliver affordable, reliable, and more sustainable production, distribution, and consumption of energy.



Made-in-Vietnam energy plan aims for investment

Foreign tech firms are showing what can be done with renewable energy farms and micro-grids for industrial parks, solar, and "smart city" technology in Vietnam. John Rockhold, head of the Vietnam Business Forum's Power and Energy Working Group, pointed out how new technology is making renewable energy more affordable than ever, and putting it in the grasp of the national power grid.



FDI attraction up 40.5% in four months

As of April 20, as many as 734 newly-registered projects were granted with investment certificates with a total registered capital of US\$4.88 billion, equal to 96% of the same period last year, according to the Foreign Investment Agency, under the Ministry of Planning and Investment.



SMEs find strong partner in \$25 million government fund

A number of firms have started to look for help from the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Fund (SMEDF) after its first year of operation.

Talking to VIR's Khanh An, Hoang Thi Hong, general director of SMEDF, said the fund has only provided support for a limited number of firms, but is planning to become a trusted supporter for SMEs.



Logistics key for aviation sector

Vietnam's aviation sector must use advanced technologies such as e-commerce for its management, operations and business as it is a trend in global aviation transport, experts said in HCM City.



U.S., Australian Food Safety Systems are "comparable"

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has signed an arrangement with the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources recognizing each other's food safety systems as comparable to each other. This is the third time that the FDA has recognized a foreign food safety system as comparable, the first being New Zealand in 2012 and Canada in 2016.



U.S. FDA accepts D-U-N-S® Number for Foreign Supplier Verification Program

The FDA issued guidance formally recognizing the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number as an acceptable unique facility identifier (UFI) for FSVP. The identification of importers will help the FDA effectively implement, monitor compliance with, and enforce the FSVP requirements, which are designed to help ensure that imported foods meet U.S. safety standards. ...



Preparations on track for APEC Danang

Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang lauded the work of government agencies and the authorities of Danang to prepare for the APEC Summit 2017 and asked that they ensure a secure and successful event that would show to the world a good image of Vietnam.



Decision paves way for solar power development

Opportunities to invest in Việt Nam's solar energy sector are abundant after Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc issued a decision to encourage the development of solar power projects. Under Decision 11/2017/QĐ-TTg, which takes effective from June 1, 2017, all output produced by solar power projects will be purchased for VNĐ2,086 (US 9.3 cent)/kWh (excluding VAT) - a profitable rate for investors.



Executive Order re Report on Significant Trade Deficits

The Secretary of Commerce, together with the U.S. Trade Representative and other agencies will prepare a Report on Significant Trade Deficits within 90 days, by the end of June. The study will look at the countries primarily responsible for the U.S. trade deficit, including China, Japan, Germany, Mexico, Ireland, **Vietnam**, Italy, South Korea, Malaysia, India, Thailand, France, Switzerland, Taiwan, Indonesia and Canada. Surprisingly, the U.S. trade deficit with Vietnam (\$32 billion) is larger than that with South Korea (\$28 billion).



Trump, China President Xi meet to chart a way forward for the U.S. s- China Relationship

A Background Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China focused on the opportunity for the two leaders to exchange views on each other's respective priorities and to chart a way forward for the U.S.-China bilateral relationship.



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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