



Lighthizer confirmed as USTR; to visit Vietnam for APEC Trade Ministers' Meeting

FEATURES



Bipartisan Senate votes to confirm Lighthizer as USTR, 82-14

The U.S. Senate confirmed President Donald Trump's pick as top trade negotiator, clearing the way for the administration to reset relations starting with the North American Free Trade Agreement, and accelerate more broadly plans to reorient American trade policy.

While most of President Donald Trump's nominees have cleared a divided Congress by narrow margins with mainly Republican support, Mr. Lighthizer on Thursday won significant backing from Democrats as well. That is a sign that, even as the opposition party battles the White House on much of its agenda, they are eager to work with Mr. Trump to beef up trade enforcement to curb imports and pry open foreign markets-and to craft policies aimed at curbing the U.S. trade deficit.



Lighthizer to hold talks with Congress on NAFTA, visit Vietnam for APEC talks

Robert Lighthizer will meet with congressional committees to discuss the administration's negotiating objectives for NAFTA and travel to Vietnam for the two-day APEC trade ministers meeting. One of Lighthizer's first orders of business will be to consult Congress on the administration's plans to renegotiate Nafta, which Trump called a "disaster" during the election campaign. His confirmation clears a hurdle before the U.S. can start 90 days of consultations preceding Nafta talks. Trump has threatened to withdraw from the agreement with Mexico and Canada if he doesn't think discussions are going his way.



Nguyen Thien Nhan appointed HCMC Party Secretary

The Politburo on May 10 announced its decision to appoint Nguyen Thien Nhan, member of the Politburo and president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee, as secretary of the HCMC Party Committee, replacing Dinh La Thang.



Tough measures against officials for mismanagement

Tough measures have been and will be taken against officials for mismanagement, says General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong. Vietnam's Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong on Saturday said officials causing damage to the country will continue to be punished. Speaking at a town hall meeting in Hanoi's Ba Dinh District, Trong said there are also "other cases," without elaborating.



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

***Thanks to Sponsors:* Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Vietnam Waste Solutions, Bamboo Capital, Baker & McKenzie, Long Hau Corporation, DiCentral, Pfizer, Victoria Healthcare**

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 networking buffet lunch. With participation from high level officials, Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh and US Ambassador Ted Osius, plus Ministries' officials and provincial leaders, the event will highlight the successful collaboration between entrepreneurs and provinces. In addition, participants will have a chance to one-on-one meeting with top leaders of 22 provinces. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

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.



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New ISO 9001:2015 - upcoming Transition training

The new version of ISO 9001:2015 standards has been published and companies certified under the current ISO 9001:2008 standard shall implement the new standard by 14. Sept.2018 latest. The training conducted by SCSI Vietnam Quality Service Co. Ltd. will provide a comprehensive knowledge about the upcoming requirements and on how to master the transition from 9001:2008 to 9001:2015 with focus on the new "high level structure".

1 day trainings are offered in both English + Vietnamese language.



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

In response to a number of AmCham companies, AmCham has arranged this workshop to provide an update on U.S. visitor visa application procedures, visa renewal procedures, and procedures for group visits (incentive tours, etc.).



May 24 AmCham Palooza Party at Sofitel Saigon Plaza

AmCham will continue its series of monthly informal networking events at the coolest and latest nightspots in Ho Chi Minh City.

The monthly Palooza Party is a platform to develop new friendships, networking opportunities and information exchange.

Come and join us for a night of casual networking, meet other professionals, bring your business cards!



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.



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. BOOK NOW!



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](#).





Early wins matter for the US-Vietnam relationship

As US President Trump embarks on a broad set of engagements in Asia, the US-Vietnam relationship is primed for a win-win that advances mutual commercial and economic interests. In particular, upcoming engagements between Trump and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc present an opportunity to advance shared strategic interests and create more jobs in both countries through increased US exports and investments to Vietnam.



Development gap hinders linkages in APEC auto industry

A big development gap between APEC member economies is hindering the region's auto industry from transferring technology and promoting linkages, said an official of the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT).



Senate vote to confirm Lighthizer as USTR scheduled

MCCONNELL TEES UP LIGHTHIZER FOR NEXT WEEK: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell closed out this week's [May 5, 2017] business by saying the chamber will take up the nomination of Robert Lighthizer to be U.S. trade representative when lawmakers return next week [May 8], improving the chances the veteran trade attorney will be confirmed in time for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation trade ministers meeting May 20-21 in Hanoi.



APEC members work to boost partnership on science, technology

Representatives from Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) member economies gathered in Hà Nội on Thursday for the 10th APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI-10) Meeting.



APEC 2017: New Vision and Position of Viet Nam

The APEC Year 2017 is a significant opportunity to highlight the spirit and intellectual capacity of Viet Nam's foreign affairs, particularly the multi-lateral diplomacy, said Deputy PM, FM Pham Binh Minh in a recent article.



Tra fish prices at 10-year high

Tra (pangasius) fish prices skyrocketed last month, reaching a 10-year high, but experts warn that export of this seafood product could be unstable this year.



APEC meets to promote disabled employment

Delegates from APEC member economies gathered at a symposium in Hà Nội yesterday to seek ways to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the region.



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.



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.



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."



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).



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.



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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