



AmCham Vietnam
Ho Chi Minh City Chapter



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AmCham HCMC Weekly Update - Jun 19

FEATURES

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.

[Click HERE for more details and booking](#)



AmCham Statement at VBF Vietnam Business Forum, June 16, 2017

On Jun 16, AmCham Vietnam - HCMC Chair Jonathan Moreno joined and gave a speech at VBF Vietnam Business Forum in Hanoi. "We want to continue affirming that there are many paths forward to deepen business ties. Among other things, we support TIFA and a path leading to a free trade agreement (FTA) between our two countries. The American business community in Vietnam stands ready to do our part to make this goal a reality." [Read more.](#)



Food Safety Modernization Act - Foreign Supplier Verification Program

The U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act is going into effect now. On May 30, 2017, a new regulation requiring U.S. food importers to identify their foreign suppliers and verify that they are using safe food processes and procedures became effective. But whether the industry will be in compliance remains highly uncertain. The Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) regulation was announced in November 2015, but many importers have either found it confusing about who is responsible for supplying the information, or have chosen to disregard it, assuming it is not their problem.



U.S. importer receives FDA warning letter to implement FSVP

An importer in Southern California is on notice from the FDA for failing to take required steps under the "Foreign Supplier Verification Program" (FSVP) to assure that the smoked salmon and mackerel it brings into the U.S. have been produced in accordance with U.S. food safety regulations.



Vietnam food businesses registered to export to U.S. drastically reduced

On Jun 7, the Ministry of Industry and Trade organized a conference on the structure of Vietnam's export of food and beverages to the U.S. Many businesses urgently said that they have fallen into the list of enterprises that do not meet the requirements for exporting to the US market while having a long history of exporting to the market for more than ten years. In addition, they did not receive any warning information from the authorities. In fact, new regulations were announced Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2016, and applied from Jan 1, 2017., in just a few months from the end of 2016 to the beginning of 2017, the number of Vietnamese companies with valid FDA registration to export to the US market dropped from 1,845 companies down to only 806.



Foreign investment: what you need to know

When making an investment in Vietnam, foreign investors must study the feasibility of the project based on various factors. One of them is that the investor must make sure if the business sectors they plan to operate in are permitted by the laws of Vietnam or satisfy regulatory conditions and requirements.



HCM City aims for 10-pct growth of cooperative economy

The co-operative economic sector in HCM City aims to achieve an annual growth rate of 10 per cent from 2017 - 2020, said the municipal Co-operative Alliance's Chairwoman Le Hoang Yen on Tuesday.

The HCMC Co-operative Alliance also targets to raise its contribution to the city's GDP to 1.2 per cent and attract more 50,000 people working in the co-operative sector during the period, Yen said at a ceremony to celebrate the alliance's 20th anniversary.



Sep 22-24 AmCham Family Weekend at JW Marriott 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 JW Marriott Phu Quoc. More details and registration form will be sent to you shortly. BOOK NOW!

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.



Grow your business with Epicor ERP Solutions

Explore the Epicor ERP Resource Kit

Discover how enterprise resource planning (ERP) software can help you perfect your growth plans and your ability to execute on them when you access the Epicor ERP Resource Kit:

- Learn how to choose the right ERP solution for your company in the How To Successfully Select An ERP System in Eight Simple Step white paper.
- Explore Epicor ERP features that enhance manufacturing and distribution performance in the Epicor ERP system demo.



MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE

Jun 22 Manufacturing Committee June Meeting (For Members Only)

Regular monthly meeting of the Manufacturing Committee for networking, information-sharing, and planning advocacy efforts to improve the business environment and promote trade and investment between Vietnam and the U.S.



Jun 27 Social Insurance Law Updates - Impacts on the business

The 2014 Law on Social Insurance of Vietnam (the "Law on Social Insurance") came into force on 1 January 2016. After over one year of its implementation, on one hand, the Law on Social Insurance and its guiding legislations have contributed to the overall improvement of the legal framework of social insurance regulations. On the other hand, various stakeholders have encountered a number of practical difficulties and raised their concerns about, for example, new definition of salary as a basis to calculate social insurance contributions, or procedures and dossiers to settle, pay and receive insurance entitlements in different circumstances. Most recently, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs has released a draft decree providing further guidance on the compulsory social insurance applicable to foreign employees working in Vietnam. This decree, if adopted, will take effect on 1 January 2018 and will increase the employment costs for companies doing businesses in Vietnam.



AMCHAM PALOOZA

Jun 28 AmCham Palooza Party at The Reverie Saigon

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!

Dress code: **Business Casual**

The AmCham Palooza is a popular group that holds networking events and happy hours regularly to increase communication amongst membership and expats.



Jun 29 NEW ISO 9001:2015 Training

Providing a comprehensive overview about the updated standards of ISO 9001:2015 & practical information for the implementation.

The focus is on the introduction of the concept of "high level structure" which is building the framework for all new requirements and norms inside ISO 9001:2015



July 20 Evidence in Commercial Dispute Resolution

When entering into any commercial transaction, the parties always expect its smooth implementation and the lucrative benefits. However, there can be practical factors affecting the implementation of the transaction and leading to the potential dispute to which the relevant evidence standing for the position of each party is the key to win.



July 26 Building a High Performance Organization - Lessons from MIT and Other Global Thought Leaders

If you want to silence a room of executives, try this small trick. Ask them, "Why would anyone want to be led by you?" Without fail, the question strikes fear in the hearts of most executives.

Executives need to know and sense what it takes to lead effectively - they must find ways to engage people and rouse their commitment to company goals. But most simply don't know how - at a time when all organizations needs leaders at every level.

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](#).

News and Issues



YKVN receives 2016 Asian-Mena Counsel Deal Of The Year Awards

YKVN's legal team has been recognized in two of Asian-Mena Counsel's "Deals of the Year" for 2016 for its role as Vietnamese counsel to Central Retail in its acquisition from Casino Group of Big C department stores in Vietnam and as Vietnamese counsel to Alibaba Group in its acquisition from Lazada Group of its assets in Vietnam.



New decree a game changer for transfer pricing

Vietnam's long-standing efforts to tackle the practice of transfer pricing as a tax avoidance ploy have gained sharper legal teeth with a new decree.

Transfer pricing is the pricing of goods, services and intangibles between related parties, like a parent company and its affiliates.



DOC amends antidumping duty on Vietnamese CS Wind Group wind towers

The United States Department of Commerce (DOC) would initiate an administrative review only on entries where CS Wind Group (including CS Wind Vietnam Co., Ltd. and CS Wind Corporation) was either only the producer or the exporter of the subject merchandise.



F&B Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Appointment

The American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam ("AmCham Vietnam") in Ho Chi Minh City set up under the permit of No.2/GP-HHDN/HCM dated 19 September 1998, with the extended license No. 3276/QD-UBND, dated 03 July, 2015 issued by the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, wishes to appoint the new Chair, Co-Chair and Vice Chairs of AmCham F&B Sector Committee ("FBSC").



Meet The USA 2017 Conference in HCMC

On Jun 7, the first Meet The USA Conference was jointly held successfully by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HCMC People's Committee, the U.S. Consulate, and AmCham Vietnam-HCMC in HCMC. The event gathered top leaders of the Vietnam central government, provinces, US government, and US companies. There is huge opportunity for Vietnam and the US to further boost investment and trade ties in many sectors

Again, We'd like to send our appreciation to Sponsors of this event:

Coca-Cola, Microsoft Vietnam, Vietnam Waste Solutions, Bamboo Capital, Baker & McKenzie, DiCentral, Deep C Industrial Zones, Long Hau Corporation, Pfizer, USIS, and Victoria Healthcare International Clinics



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.



Vietnam, US discuss ways to boost trade-investment ties

A programme entitled "Meet the USA 2017" was held in HCM City on June 7 to step up economic-trade-investment relations between Vietnam and the US, especially in the fields of smart city development, renewable energy, environmental protection, hi-tech agriculture, healthcare and education.



HCM City authorities call for further investment from US investors

Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Municipal Party Committee Nguyen Thien Nhan delivered a welcome message to more than 100 US businesses, who are investing in Vietnam, at the "Meet the USA 2017" meeting, held in the southern city on June 7.



"Meet The USA 2017" conference promotes US investment in Vietnam

The "Meet The USA 2017" conference bringing the provincial leaders and U.S. companies together was held in Ho Chi Minh City on June 7.

The event themed "How to Continue Growth in U.S.-Vietnam Trade Relations" was organized by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the U.S. Consulate General, and AmCham Vietnam.



Joint Statement for Enhancing the Comprehensive Partnership between the U.S. and Vietnam

The President of the United States of America Donald J. Trump hosted the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the White House to chart an agenda for United States-Vietnam relations, building on the positive momentum of the Comprehensive Partnership between the two countries.



"I'm here," USTR Lighthizer to APEC Trade Ministers' Meeting

His message to trade ministers seeking a sense of the U.S. world view will probably sound like, "I'm new to the job, but be assured the U.S. has not turned its back on trade," WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdh praised Lighthizer's experience and knowledge of the multilateral system, but admitted the USTR has a hard, unenviable job ahead of him. "It's going to be tough to see how he can connect all the dots between what the president says, what the private sector has been saying, what the agricultural sector has been saying, what Congress has been saying, the different parties. It's a lot of moving parts."



Three Vietnamese teams get Facebook sponsor package

The three best teams won sponsor packages from Facebook (FbStart) worth \$80,000 each at the TOPICA AI Edtech Asia Hackathon 2017, the largest artificial intelligence contest in Southeast Asia.



Co-processing, solution for industrial waste

With its rapid industrialisation and population growth, Việt Nam produces more than 15 million tonnes of waste a year, including 4.7 million tonnes of solid industrial waste, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The waste is mainly treated by landfilling or burning in industrial incinerators.



VN's doctor consulting app gets Google sponsor package

EDoctor, a mobile app developed by a Vietnamese tech startup that connects users with medical professionals, has been selected to receive free mentorship and monetary support from Google. The support is part of the Launchpad Accelerator programme, which will kick off on July 17 and is initiated by the US internet giant, aimed at empowering tech startups across the world to reach their true potential.



Right approach necessary for private sector to drive Vietnamese economy

The best approach to grow the Vietnamese economy is to create a level playing field in all sectors. For the private sector to become a driver of the economy, several macro- and microeconomic preconditions need to be met.



About 50 decrees on investment and business amended

So far, the Government has revised 50 decrees on investment and business in an effort to accelerate administrative reform, improve the business environment, and raise the economy's competitiveness. Permanent Deputy PM Truong Hoa Binh made the point on May 22 in Ha Noi at the opening ceremony of the third session of the 14th National Assembly



Moody's: Strong FDI will continue to help VN diversify economy

Vietnam's B1 rating and positive outlook reflect its expectation that strong foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows will continue to diversify the country's economy when compared with similarly rated peers, Moody's Investors Service said on Monday. Moody's conclusions are contained in its released annual credit analysis of the sovereign: "Government of Vietnam - B1 Positive."



Party Central Committee vows to eliminate prejudice against private sector

Three key resolutions aimed at promoting Vietnam's private economic sector were issued by Vietnam's Party Central Committee on Wednesday at the conclusion of a six-day meeting in Hanoi. The fifth plenary meeting of the 12th Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee commenced last Friday to a six-day agenda with a particular focus on moving the country's economy forward.



The update on U.S. - Vietnam Economics, Trade and Investment Policy Programs and Agreement

On May 15, 2017 (Monday), AmCham Vietnam has successful event to update U.S. and Vietnam Economics, Trade and Investment Policy Programs and Agreement at Sheraton Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City. The event receives about 70 participants included AmCham members and guests. The event welcomes Ms. Diane Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration as the key speaker. Beside the updating the latest information on economics, trade and investment policy program and agreement between U.S and Vietnam, Ms. Farrell joins our panel discussions which focus on the key advocacy issues for 2017 in Energy and Health Groups.



AmCham Statement at Meeting with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc

made by AmCham Chairman, Jonathan Moreno on May 17.

"The American business community is proud of our contributions to the development of Vietnam's economy. Trade between our two countries passed \$52 billion last year, up 16 percent year-over-year. We are confident that the upward growth trend of trade and investment relations between the US and Vietnam will continue, and can strengthen.

A new US President took office recently, and while we regret that the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement has stalled, AmCham believes there are new paths forward to increase trade and investment between the US and Vietnam."



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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