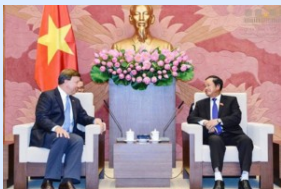




AmCham HCMC Weekly Update - Jul 10

FEATURES



NA Vice Chairman greets US congressional delegation

The United States should support accelerated trade ties with Vietnam, improve its maritime police capacity, and increase co-operation in search and rescue and natural disaster relief, National Assembly Vice Chairman Do Ba Ty told a visiting congressional delegation on Thursday. Ty greeted a delegation from the Armed Service Committee of the US House of Representatives, led by Michael Dennis Rogers, chairman of the Sub-Committee on Strategic Forces, in Hanoi, saying the visit offers an opportunity for frank discussion on issues of mutual concern to promote co-operation.



In VN, many ministries oversee one noodle

Businesses are complaining of excessive and overlapping regulations regarding food hygiene and safety management that not only burden them but have proven ineffective. Reports by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly (NA) on the implementation of food safety laws and policies in the 2011-16 period said a swath of policies have been issued but have not been "systemised," resulting in subpar performance.



IMF forecasts VN GDP at 6.3% in 2017

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast Vietnam's economic growth at 6.3 per cent in 2017 against the Government's 6.7 per cent target, but noted that ambitious reforms could raise the country's growth potential.

Under a report released on its website on Wednesday, IMF also projected the country's headline inflation to stabilise at some 5 per cent as administered prices continue to be adjusted. The current account surplus is expected to decline somewhat, reflecting stronger imports.



Law on Food Safety - Decree No.38 - Clipping Report

In addition to food security, food safety has been a major concern for the Government of Vietnam in recent years because food safety and quality is necessary not only for the community's health but also for achieving sustainable agricultural growth. The importance of food safety comes from the fact that cases of trading and transporting of tainted, rotten or smuggled foods in big quantity have been detected frequently. More worryingly, the cases are just a small part of unhygienic goods in circulation now. Unsafe foods cause diseases, affecting health, and threatening the life of people.

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.



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.



EMERITUS
INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

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.



Aug 4 AmCham Supply Chain Development Workshop 2017

The development of the Vietnam Supply Chain is an integral part of development of the overall manufacturing industry. But as a local supplier there challenges to overcome when working with Foreign Invested Enterprises supply chains. What is the best way to present your products to a potential customer? Which procurement standards are common and how does Lean relate to suppliers? What is the global trend of "worker engagement" and how could it involve and support suppliers? These topics will be discussed along with a hosted round table discussion with both manufacturers and suppliers to exchange practical advice and learn from each other at the 2017 AmCham Supply Chain Development.

Aug 10 Vietnam M&A Forum 2017



Vietnam M&A Forum is an annual event for companies and investors from Vietnam and other countries, co-organised by VIR and AVM Vietnam since 2009 under the auspices of the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Over the past eight years, Vietnam M&A Forum has attracted more than 300 speakers, leading international and local M&A experts, and more than 3,500 senior leaders from international investment funds, international and local consulting firms, state-run corporations, and companies in the private sector operating in Vietnam. AmCham Members get 20% off on ticket price.



Aug 28 Food Safety Summit: Growing Markets for High-Quality Vietnamese Products

In 2017, Vietnam plays host to the Global Food Safety Forum's highly anticipated annual conference. Vietnam's food and seafood products play a vital role in the global supply chain; in 2016, Vietnam's seafood exports reached \$7 billion, of which \$1.4 billion of fish and shellfish exports went to the U.S., accounting for over 40% of U.S. imports of \$3.5 billion of agriculture products and food from Vietnam.



Oct 19 AAFA Product Safety and Compliance Conference

AAFA brings together industry leaders to educate factories and suppliers in Vietnam. Industry leaders will educate factories and suppliers in Vietnam on the critical components of manufacturing and delivering products that meet global regulations, industry compliance, and consumer demand. The conference will be presented in English with full translation. AAFA is pleased to be working with the American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam to present this event. Please mark your calendars to attend and share this date with your providers across Vietnam.



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](#).

Committing to Asia trade is committing to a prosperous future



Jonathan Moreno, Board Chairman, and Orsolya Szotyory-Grove, Legal Committee Chairwoman represented AmCham Vietnam - HCMC, at the annual Asia Pacific Councils of American Chambers of Commerce doorknock in Washington, DC, 18-22 June. The delegation met with the US Administration and Congress to advocate our members' interest.

Read an article in [The Hill](#) regarding this visit.
And full briefing paper presented, click [HERE](#)

Pacific Cross Vietnam is now in Hanoi!



Now open in Hanoi!
19th Floor VCCI TOWER

We are so excited to announce that Pacific Cross Vietnam now has a representative office in Hanoi. The new office is located in 19th floor VCCI Tower, 9 Dao Duy Anh Street, Dong Da District, Hanoi. We are confident that the opening of our representative office in Hanoi will bring many positive outcomes.

International lenders vital to rise up SMEs



Alongside the state's recent legislative support for the small and medium sized enterprises (SME) sector, the financial acumen of international lenders is proving invaluable in taking the next step. Trang Nguyen reports.

It is the middle of the lychee harvest season in the northern provinces of Vietnam, which lasts for less than three spring-summer months.

CPI in HN, HCMC in first half announced



Ha Noi's consumption price index continued decreasing in June while the index in Ho Chi Minh City remained stable against the previous month, according to the two cities' Statistical Departments.

Specifically, the index in Ha Noi declined 0.76% compared to the previous month and witnessed a year-on-year increase of 2.52%. The prices of three commodity groups decreased including food service down 1.52%, housing, material and fuel down 0.47% and transport down 0.29%.

Vietnamese consumers among most demanding on e-commerce



Viet Nam's e-commerce may be one of the world's fastest-growing markets, but the country's customers are also among the most demanding. Nielsen has forecast that the Vietnamese e-commerce market will grow 22 per cent this year and 13.2 per cent by 2020. According to the Vietnam E-commerce Association (VECOM), the local e-commerce sector will become a 10-billion-dollar business in the next five years. However, local consumers are also demanding, with many complaints about price, product information and authorisation, which should be addressed by merchants to improve customers' trust.

United States Statement on Trade for the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting



Paris - The United States released the following statement on trade policy in response to the Chair's Statement and alongside the Consensus Statement of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Ministerial Council Meeting.

USAID facilitates green growth in building sector



A US-funded programme is providing significant help in implementing an action plan for green growth in the building sector by laying the ground for substantial energy and Green House Gas (GHG) reductions.



Pharma FIEs allowed to trade

Eight years after the phase-in schedule for the relevant World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments, Vietnam is, for the first time, setting forth a legal framework for foreign invested enterprises to trade in pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients to fulfill its WTO commitments.



World Blood Donor Day 2017 in HCM City

AmCham HCMC helped organise blood donations in HCM City during the World Blood Donor Day 2017, initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). AmCham, together with the British Business Group Việt Nam, worked with the HCM City Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion and the HCM City Humanitarian Blood Donation Centre to carry out the donor campaign at seven locations from July 12-21.



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.



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 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.

Corporate Partnership Sponsors

Diamond

- Amway™ Global Leader in Health & Beauty
- Coca-Cola®
- pepsi.

Gold

- VIETNAM WASTE SOLUTIONS Recycling & Waste Management

Silver

- HYSTER
- TRUONG PHAT J.V COMPANY

Bronze

- AIM
- ANA UNITED
- intel
- RUSSIN & VECCHI

AmCham Vietnam | herb.cochran@amchamvietnam.com | <http://www.amchamvietnam.com>
New World Hotel Saigon #323
76 Le Lai Street, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City