



AmCham HCMC Weekly Update - Aug 7

FEATURES



AmCham HCMC joins Export Forum 2017

organized by the Trade and Investment Promotion Center of the City (ITPC), with the theme "Market Identification and Risk Management in Export of Vietnamese Enterprises" to promote provision of business information, market orientation and to enhance competitive advantages of local exporters in the process of integrating into the global marketplace.



AmCham Supply Chain Development Workshop 2017 receives good responses from local suppliers

With almost 130 participants, the Workshop had fruitful presentations from Walmart, Social Responsibility Operations Consulting and Wahl Vietnam. Both speakers and audiences really enjoyed Q&A and round table discussion session. The speakers try to accommodate all questions to help business of local suppliers, share the knowledge and experience, especially how to engage them to supply chain.

This is very good response to move to next step for main event [Supplier Day on Sep 13, 2017](#).



Minimum wage to increase 6.5

The regional minimum wage for 2018 is expected to increase by 6.5 per cent, equal to VND180,000-230,000 (US\$8-10) a month, believed to be the lowest increase ever.

The increase was announced on Monday after the National Wage Council concluded its third discussion on the regional minimum wage for 2018, with a consensus reached between employer and labour representatives.



Tuna export revenue surges 21%

Vietnam's tuna export turnover has risen 21 per cent year-on-year to hit US\$271 million in the first half of 2017.

Sharing export details, the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) said that tuna fillet brought in the most revenue, accounting for around 48 per cent of total tuna exports, followed by canned tuna (30 per cent) and other processed tuna (15 per cent).



Vietnam catfish exporters worry as US applies tougher inspection procedures from Aug 2

Vietnamese catfish exporters are concerned that the door for their products to enter the U.S. will be narrowed after a new inspection rule takes effect next month.

From August 2, all Vietnamese catfish shipments to the U.S. must be transferred to official import inspection establishments specified by the U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) for re-inspection before they can be forwarded to importers and sold to American end-consumers.



United States littoral combat ship visits Vietnam

A United States Navy littoral combat ship has docked at an international seaport in the south-central Vietnamese province of Khanh Hoa, commencing a series of exchanges between the two nations' naval forces

The Independence-class vessel USS Coronado (LCS-4) arrived at the Cam Ranh International Port, located in the namesake city in Khanh Hoa, on Wednesday morning.

Captained by Alexis T. Walker, commander of the Destroyer Squadron 7, the ship and its crew of 130 naval officers are scheduled to visit Vietnam from July 6 to 11.



Sep 22-24 AmCham National Conference 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 ambience 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



Aug 9 AmCham Lunch: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation - APEC Vietnam 2017

The remaining of 2017 APEC Vietnam will witness a very busy Meeting Schedule with Businesses, Senior officials and US Government visits. AmCham members have been asking questions on program, schedules, what and how they can get involved. We are very fortunate that HCMC US Consulate Economic Office Sean P. Lindstone was a key US Government player in Korea APEC 2016 and now for Vietnam APEC 2017 and he has agreed to provide AmCham members with preliminary information on meetings, administrative procedures, meeting requirements, logistics, some general requirements for participation and some preliminary information on attendance of US Administration. So if your considering participating in the remaining APEC Vietnam meeting come join us for lunch with Sean.



Save up to 30% to North America

Save up to 30% discount on flights to 8 exciting destinations in North America: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, New York, Newark, Vancouver and Toronto and onwards to over other 200 points. Plus, Business Class passengers can now enjoy Betsy Beer*, especially crafted to be enjoyed at 35,000ft. Business class fares start from USD2,448, Premium Economy class from USD1,158 and Economy class from USD541 (excluded tax and surcharges). Book by **31st August 2017** to enjoy our supersaver fares.

**applicable for flights in August*



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.



Special Birthday Week from 8th to 13th August 2017

Celebrate our 1st birthday since the rebranding to Saigon Prince Hotel with Special Birthday Week from 8th to 13th August 2017 with many interesting activities:

BBQ Seafood Buffet Dinner at The Grill restaurant

Our BBQ seafood buffet offering market- fresh product with oysters, tiger prawns, squid, salmon, green mussel and much more. Enjoy Vietnamese style seafood feature pen shells, winkle snails, spiral snails and much more offering a delight for the senses. Explore your favorite sushi counter, carving board, soup and delicious arteries & Salad, cheese selection. Buffet starts from 549,000đ++/

adult and 279,000đ+ / children (5-11yrs)

Upgrade your experience with chef's signature lobster dishes with a merge of VND 120,000+ per person per a whole lobster



PwC Global Economic Crime and Fraud Survey (GECS)

PwC Vietnam are pleased to invite you to participate in the 2018 PwC Global Economic Crime and Fraud Survey (GECS). Since its inception in 2001, the biennial PwC Global Economic Crime and Fraud Survey (GECS) has been one of the premier thought leadership publications on economic crime and we are excited to continue this important work in 2018.

The aim of this survey is to assess corporate attitudes towards fraud and economic crime in the current economic environment and the effect these are having on organizations' business ethics and compliance programmes, and what types of fraud are most common.

Your co-operation will play a key role in establishing the extent of economic crime in businesses and in helping to develop the means to mitigate its risks for Vietnam in particular and globally.



"Next Steps" U.S. Alumni Career Event

IAJN and EducationUSA are excited to present "Next Steps" U.S. Alumni Career Event which will support U.S. alumni transitioning from education into a meaningful career.

- Connect with U.S. and Vietnamese employers
- Learn the skills you need to get the job you want
- Network and make new professional contacts

Don't miss this great opportunity to get a head start and meet top employers and industry leaders!



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 11 Vietnam HR Awards Forum 2017

Vietnam HR Awards Forum is the signature executive seminar hosted by Talentnet Corporation bi-annually, following its famous umbrella initiative among business and HR community nationwide - "Vietnam HR Awards" since 2014. The Awards itself has been considered the most renowned and professional award in Vietnam, held in association with the Newspaper of Labour and Social Affairs, the official publication of Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs, to celebrate best HR strategies and practices from business organizations.

Aiming to offer high-level views of business strategies as well as updated yet practical HR practices, Vietnam HR Awards Forum has been the most senior gathering of CEOs, business leaders and HR expert across Vietnam.



Aug 23 AmCham Palooza Party (more details to be informed)

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

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!



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.



Sep 7 AmCham Members Night and Meet the U.S. Consulate General

AmCham invites you to the Members Night event with Special Guests including the U.S. Consulate General staff. Please plan to join the networking cocktail reception at 5:45pm on September 7, 2017. Venue to be informed.

This will be our special opportunity to introduce you our recently joined members. A cocktail reception will offer networking opportunities for one-on-one conversations with the Consulate General Team, AmCham Governors/Network Leaders, and fellow members.

More information will be provided soon.



Sep 13 AmCham Supplier Day 2017

Following the success of Supplier Day 2014 - 2016, AmCham Vietnam and the Manufacturing Committee is organizing the 4th Annual Supplier Day on September 13, 2017, to support our manufacturing members and to expand the list of qualified local suppliers in Vietnam. The event this year expects to have 200 participations of registered manufacturers and suppliers and the support from other Chambers of Commerce, Business associations, Industrial Parks and other local organizations.



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](#).

News and Issues



The White House - Office of the Press Secretary - For Immediate Release

Daniel J. Kritebrink of Virginia to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Mr. Kritebrink, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, has served as an American diplomat since 1994. He is currently the Senior Advisor for North Korea Policy at the Department of State. A former Deputy Chief of Mission in Beijing, China, Mr. Kritebrink has held senior leadership positions at the Department of State and served as a Senior Director at the National Security Council. He has two decades of experience overseas and in Washington working on Asian affairs as a policy maker, analyst, and practitioner. Mr. Kritebrink earned a M.A. from the University of Virginia and a B.A. from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He speaks Chinese and Japanese.



Weather in Vietnam, and Northwest Pacific

Mark Twain said, "Everybody talks about the weather ...", so here are some information sources for you to talk about the weather in Vietnam, too.

Tropical Storm Risk. Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) offers a leading resource for predicting and mapping tropical storm activity worldwide. The public TSR web site provides forecasts and information to benefit basic risk awareness and decision making from tropical storms. The new TSR Business service and web site offers real-time products of unrivalled accuracy for the detailed mapping and prediction of tropical storm impacts worldwide.

NW Pacific Satellite Photo - Japan (updated every hour, about ten minutes past the hour)



Cushman & Wakefield Vietnam announces new Director of Project & Development Services Team

HCMC, July 12, 2017 - Cushman & Wakefield Vietnam today announces its key replacement, from 1st June 2017, Mr. Charles Herman will hand over the position of Director of Project & Development Services of Cushman & Wakefield Vietnam to Mr. Bram Rutgers.

Mr. Rutgers has over 25 years' experience in construction, project development and corporate project management. He has a broad range of experience in many project types and delivery systems. Bram has demonstrated throughout his career the ability to lead a variety of diverse teams through many challenging projects and programs in Europe, Middle East and USA before moving to China in 2010. He has led multidisciplinary design and construction teams on projects of value excess of \$250M USD.



AmCham Vietnam organizes the business event with special topic "Building a High Performance Organization - Lessons from MIT and other Global Thought Leaders"

The workshop receives support from Emeritus Institute of Management. It is very interested topic for AmCham members to improve their performance organization. As leaders of company, they must find ways to engage people and rouse their commitments to company goals. Executives need to know and sense what it takes to lead effectively. The workshop also helps attendees to get the answers for three key questions so organization can really win in the market place. And the most important session focuses on role play and evaluate the factors that increase and decrease leaders'

influence and effectiveness. Challenge and assess the ability of leaders to create shared understanding and common meaning through effective communications. The workshop incorporates a mix of high energy and interactive approaches.



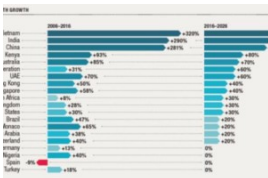
Dong Thap Province calling for Investment

The leaders of Dong Thap Province are inviting AmCham members and investors to visit, explore, and learn more about the investment environment of Dong Thap province. Projects inviting investments include (1) Agriculture high tech zone, (2) Hospitality, (3) Waste, water and environment, (4) Education, (5) Food & Beverage. AmCham will organizing a business mission to Dong Thap province in Aug/Sep. If you interest in joining, please kindly let us know by [email](#).



Why the U.S. imports tainted food that can kill you: The Hill

This week the CDC reported that at least 47 people were stricken with Salmonella, with one death, likely linked to papayas imported from Mexico. In the summer of 2016 came reports of hepatitis A tainted scallops sickening 292 in Hawaii. In that outbreak two died of liver failure complications. And, also in 2016, 143 people, mostly in Virginia, were also stricken with hepatitis A. This time the culprit was hepatitis A-tainted strawberries imported from Egypt.



Vietnam's growing demand for US property

Vietnamese people's demand for foreign property, especially in the US, has been increasing in recent years. Experts say this increase can be attributed to Vietnam's fast growing economy and Vietnamese people's belief that the US is a good place to live and work. A report by the US National Association of Realtors (NAR) showed that between April 2016 and March 2017, Vietnamese buyers purchased approximately 5,689 residential properties in the US, roughly double of the previous 12-months period.



Hard Rock interested in developing casino at Laguna Lang Co

US-based casino operator and hospitality business Hard Rock International Inc. has confirmed its interest in developing a casino at Laguna Lang Co integrated resort complex in the central province of Thua Thien-Hue, according to newswire GGRAsia.



New decree to help small investors

A new decree will help improve the quality of corporate governance in public companies and benefit small, individual investors, a senior official said yesterday. Corporate governance has become an urgent issue for public companies as it affects a firm's sustainability when its size and scale develops at a fast speed, Pham Hong Son, vice chairman of the State Securities Commission (SSC), said at a conference.



Export revenue likely to hit US\$200 billion in 2017

Vietnam is likely to reach total export turnover of US\$200 billion for 2017, increasing more than 13 per cent from last year and exceeding the set target, deputy minister of Industry and Trade Do Thang Hai claimed at a meeting in Ha Noi yesterday.



Apple wants to change the way doctors and patients talk to each other - by giving everyone an iPad

Awad Lsallum has been waiting for a heart for 40 days at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. One of the worst parts of a long hospital stay, he said, can be not having a clear picture of what your situation is, or even who is taking care of you as the days drag on. But now, at least at Cedars-Sinai, there's an app for all of that. Actually, there's a whole tablet. The hospital is offering some patients the option to check out iPads during their stay for free, to provide more insight into their health. The program offers a glimpse of how Apple is trying to further tap into

the \$3 trillion health-care market.



First Energy Efficiency Network launched in Vietnam

Vietnam's first Energy Efficiency Network has been officially launched in Ho Chi Minh City, giving a platform for companies to connect and improve energy efficiency.

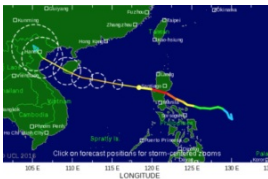
Speaking at the launch, Markus Bissel, head of the Energy Efficiency component of the project, said, "The objective of the network is to provide a platform to connect companies to improve energy efficiency by sharing and learning from each other."



US First Solar resumes long-delayed \$1.2 billion project

After years of failing looking for suitable investors to take its place and carry out the \$1.2-billion project in Ho Chi Minh City, First Solar (US) has decided to resume the solar panel manufacturing project.

Late last year, in a conference call with investors and industry analysts to discuss the firm's 2017 operations, chief executive officer Mark Widmar revealed that they could even look to use the plant in Vietnam that was built but has not yet put into operation.



Tropical Storm Talas approaches Vietnam

Ha Noi ... probability for Tropical Storm is 40% in about 24 hours. The storm track is usually updated every 12 hours at 7am and 7pm VNTime. Note that storm tracks can and do change frequently.



Full enforcement of USDA inspection of Siluriformes fish, including catfish will begin on Aug 2

USDA's Food Safety and inspection Service's plans to reinspect all shipments of imported Siluriformes fish and fish products, including catfish, beginning on Aug. 2, one month earlier than originally scheduled, according to a Federal Register Notice published on July 3. Countries that want to continue to export siluriformes fish and fish products, including catfish, to the U.S. must submit a complete "Self-Reporting Tool" and supporting documentation to USDA/FSIS by Sep 1, 2017.



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.



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