



AmCham HCMC Weekly Update - Aug 21

FEATURES



TOMORROW, Aug 23 AmCham Palooza Party at Hotel Equatorial

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!



AmCham Representative joins meeting of Advisory Council on Administrative Procedure Reform

Ha Noi, Aug 16, 2017, at the request of Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, representative of AmCham Board of Governors, HCMC, Mr. Fred Burke, Managing Partner, Baker & McKenzie joined the meeting of the Advisory Council on Administrative Procedure Reform (ACAPR) at the Office of the Government. The ACAPR meeting was convened by the Prime Minister to survey the effects of prior administrative procedure reforms for the first 7 months of 2017, and discuss the Council's activities. Mr. Fred Burke delivered comments focussing on unofficial costs and fees that enterprises endure when complying with the current administrative procedure requirements. He offered solutions for the reduction of these burdens as well as strategies to introduce WTO compliant regulatory programs.



Minimum wage increase ineffective in raising living standards

Increasing the regional minimum wage has raised concerns over a potential trade-off with social allowances that would block the new wages from increasing employees' real income.



Survey Says: Americans Will Splurge On Sustainable Seafood

Seafood is in higher demand than ever before, with 82 percent of Americans adding salmon, shrimp and tilapia to their lunch and dinner plates. However, they won't settle for just any seafood. They want to know where it's coming from and that it was sourced responsibly, according to a June 2017 Cargill Feed4Thought consumer survey.



SMEs need good brands: seminar

Strong brand names are very important for small and medium-sized enterprises to improve their competitiveness, a seminar heard on Wednesday in HCM City.

Speaking at "Building brand name - foundation to create competitive advantage and development for Vietnamese enterprises," organised by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nguyen Thi My Chau, a consultant in enterprise governance and SME development, said: "Brand names



New OPIC President outlines a vision for the Agency

"I'm here and I'm ready to work," OPIC President and CEO Ray Washburne told OPIC staff Tuesday during a meeting where he outlined his vision for the Agency. Washburne, a longtime Texas-based investor who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate earlier this month as the eleventh President and CEO of OPIC, said he was encouraged by the speed with which the Agency's new leadership has been put in place. In addition to Washburne and David Bohigian, who was also confirmed earlier this month as OPIC Executive Vice President, OPIC's new executive team includes Edward Burrier, Vice President, Office of External Affairs; and William Doffermayre, Vice President and General Counsel.



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 at InterContinental Saigon.

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.

Thanks to **LE & TRAN** for sponsoring this event.



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 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



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

Special thanks to event sponsors: **CARGILL, COCA-COLA, AmCham FBSC, VinEco, Bureau Veritas, US Grain Counsel, APL, Carrier, DiCentral, CTRMS, Eurofins Sac Ky Hai Dang, SGS, and ThermoFisher.**

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.

Aug 30 "Next Steps" U.S. Alumni Career Event in HCMC

Want to meet hundreds of enthusiastic, talented students and recent graduates of U.S. colleges and universities looking for work and career options?

IAJN and EducationUSA are excited to invite you to be part of the first "Next Steps" U.S. Alumni Career Event. The IAJN and EducationUSA "Next Steps" event will help you attract bright, skilled, and internationally educated graduates to your organization and help raise your company's profile in the student, recent graduate, and young professional community. In addition to helping organizations find the best global talent with a U.S. education, the event will provide graduates with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed, including training and workshops. Don't miss this opportunity to meet the best talent and position your company as an employer of choice! Email info@ia-jn.com to book your space.



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.



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 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.



ANA and United Airlines Introduce 'Asia Joint Venture Simple' Program to Reward SME Business Travelers and our flight schedule from HCMC to USA

All Nippon Airways (ANA) will start 2nd flight from Tokyo (Narita) - Los Angeles from 29 Oct 17. Customers will have opportunity to connect L.A in 2 flights in a day. For details, please check [ANA's website](#)

ANA and United Airlines is now launching the Joint Venture (JV) Simple program, a corporate travel program that aims to support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) based in Vietnam when their employees travel on business.



RMIT EMBA Networking Evening

RMIT University Vietnam is hosting a networking evening with our lecturers, alumni, current and prospective students to discover our Executive MBA program. This special occasion will give you the unique opportunity to share your questions and find the answers to navigating the challenges of taking your career to the next level and expanding your business networks. Special guest Mr. Nguyen Minh Hieu - M&A Advisory Director at KPMG Vietnam will be present to share his experience of joining the program.



Sofitel Saigon Plaza celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival with magnifique Mooncakes

Ho Chi Minh City, August 2017 - To celebrate the forthcoming Mid-Autumn Festival, Sofitel Saigon Plaza introduces a new range of mooncakes from August 2017. Whether to enjoy with family or to give to friends and business associates, Sofitel Saigon Plaza's [mooncakes selection](#) makes the perfect Mid-Autumn gift and add a touch of luxury to the celebration.



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 12K twitter followers, 10K facebook fans (and 60K+ views/month) 5.9k 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

Special thanks to USIS to become our Bronze Corporate Partner

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



InterContinental Nha Trang Wins Two Honored Awards

"InterContinental Nha Trang has a double reason to celebrate having recently been named winner of "Vietnam's Leading Luxury Hotel 2017" at the 24th annual World Travel Awards and also "Vietnam's Best Five-Star Hotel 2017" by the Ministry of Culture, Sport, and Tourism. This is the third time InterContinental Nha Trang has been honored with the World Travel Awards and the first year the hotel has been awarded as winner at the Viet Nam Tourism Awards."

Welcome Amanda Rasmussen as new AmCham HCMC Board Member



Congratulations on her selection to the Board of Governors to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Brian Smith, who relocated to the USA in July.

Amanda Rasmussen is Chief Operating Officer, ITL Corp, one of the largest logistics and supply chain companies in Vietnam. Amanda has 20 years' experience in logistics, transportation and supply chain management, having held previous roles in DHL, Maersk, Damco and running her own logistics and supply chain training and consulting company for a number of years. Her specific areas of experience include operational, commercial and general management experience in Logistics, Air freight, Ocean freight, Origin Consolidation, PO Management, Warehousing, Distribution, Supply Chain Management and Value Added Services in the Asia Pacific Region and specifically in Vietnam and South East Asia.

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.

APEC SOM 3 to host most events



As many as 2,600 delegates will make it to the third APEC Senior Officials' Meeting and related meetings (SOM 3) expected to open in HCM City next Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has announced.

Slated for August 18-30, SOM 3 will accommodate 75 meetings, seminars, and dialogues by four committees and 38 working groups of the Asian-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC).

First H&M to open on September 9 in Vietnam



Hennes & Mauritz AB (H&M) announced opening its first store on September 9, 2017 at Vincom Centre Shopping Mall in Ho Chi Minh City.

"This is the most favourable time for us to join the Vietnamese market, H&M's 68th market with great potential in the retail sector. With various diversified fashion products, we hope to meet our customers' expectations and inspire them to explore and create their own style," Fredrik Famm, H&M Southeast Asia country manager, said.

AmCham Supply Chain Development Workshop 2017 receives impressive 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**.

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.



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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RUSSIN & VECCHI

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