



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AMCHAM VIETNAM: FOOD SAFETY SUMMIT: GROWING MARKETS FOR VIETNAMESE PRODUCTS**

Ho Chi Minh City, August 28, 2017, AmCham Vietnam, HCMC, together with the High-Quality Vietnam Products Association, and Global Food Safety Forum organize the Food Safety Summit, “Growing Markets for Vietnamese Products”. The summit is supported by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Ho Chi Minh City People’s Committee, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The summit includes experts in panel discussion format to attract more than two hundred attendees from regulatory agencies, business associations and enterprises.

Vietnam’s food and seafood products play a vital role in the global supply chain. In 2016, Vietnam’s seafood exports reached US\$ 7 billion, of which US\$ 1.4 billion of fish and shellfish exports went to the U.S., accounting for over 40% of U.S. imports of US\$ 3.5 billion of agriculture product and food from Vietnam.

To support Vietnamese enterprises facing great challenges to export, especially to the U.S. market, the Food Safety Summit provides details on expectations behind the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act, new regulations on food safety requirements, and practical advice on how to comply with them. The Food Safety Summit brings together food safety officials, experts and specialists from both U.S. and Vietnamese governments, private sectors, and international organizations to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the global food safety arena, with a particular focus on new food safety requirements.

The conference has five panels to exchange practices and experiences in Vietnam and globally, including Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements for foreign suppliers, supply chain risk management, strengthening government surveillance and response, public-private initiatives, and practical advice on how to comply with the new FSMA food safety requirements.

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The Food Safety Summit received high recognition from enterprises as sponsors. Ratih Puspitasari, Director, Regulatory & Scientific Affairs, Cargill SEA and India Representative of Cargill comments: “There is a growing demand for healthy animal protein and other tropical food, the question is how to empower the Vietnamese food industry, to promote sustainable farming and compliance to the new US FDA requirement. It’s all about quality, safety, nutrition and sustainability. Clear policies that advance food safety, good production practices, strict hygiene and farming environment control, regulations for proper animal medicinal drug use, science-based animal care and well-being practices that are consistent with globally recognized standards and best practices can help open the doors of the U.S market and others to Made-in-Vietnam food in the global marketplace.”

And Mr. Sanket Ray – CEO of Coca-Cola Vietnam shares “It is highly appreciated that Vietnamese Government, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, and Ministry of Industry and Trade continue to develop a legislative framework focused on food safety. The sound and practical policies will lead to more effective food safety application and management, which is extremely important to help Vietnam businesses thrive in the global food supply chain. As a member of AMCHAM’s F&B Sector Committee, Coca-Cola strongly support interactive information sharing and training like today’s event and have great pleasure when we, together with prestigious experts from Public and Private sectors, can facilitate open dialogue with meaningful expertise exchanges to help shape the best development roadmap for the industry, and bolster the growth of both US and Vietnam businesses.”

Vietnam ranks high for exports of various agricultural products, but Vietnamese products are perceived as of lower quality and value, competitive on price but not on quality, and are often rejected by importing countries in terms of unsafe food. This situation needs to be changed as it limits export opportunities and impacts the health of Vietnamese population. As such, improving the current food safety system, with shared responsibility for everyone to respect food safety requirements, will help all stakeholders, including smallholder producers and traditional retail outlets, benefit along with Vietnam’s current stage of development.



*Mr. Mark Gillin, Vice Chairman of AmCham Vietnam, HCMC gave welcome remarks*



*Supply Chain Risk Management Panel Discussion*

#### **ABOUT AMCHAM**

*AmCham Vietnam in HCM City is an independent association of American and international businesses. With more than 450 companies, and over 1,000 representatives, our membership of manufacturing, brand management, transportation and logistics, professional services, and travel and hospitality firms is unified by a common objective to promote trade and investment between Vietnam and the United States. Since 1996, AmCham Vietnam in HCM City has been a Member of the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), which represents 3,000,000 businesses, 2,800 state and local chambers, 830 business associations, and 102 [American Chambers of Commerce](#) in 82 countries.*