



## AmCham HCMC Weekly Update - Aug 28

### FEATURES



#### Food Safety Summit: Growing Markets For Vietnamese Products on Aug 28

On August 28, 2017, AmCham Vietnam, HCMC, together with the High-Quality Vietnam Products Association, and Global Food Safety Forum organized successfully the Food Safety Summit, "Growing Markets for Vietnamese Products". The summit was 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 included experts in panel discussion format to attract three hundred attendees from regulatory agencies, business associations and enterprises.



#### Increasing gains from RTAs/FTAs in APEC becoming key

Vietnam holds many advantages from the free trade agreements it has with other APEC members, according to Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and APEC 2017 SOM chairman Bui Thanh Son.

"Joining free trade agreements (FTA) can help Vietnam access foreign markets and seek long-term and stable markets for local goods, particularly agro-forestry-fishery products, footwear, and electronics, and improve the competitiveness of Vietnamese businesses," Son said at the Dialogue on RTAs and FTAs at the APEC-SOM 3 held on August 27 in Ho Chi Minh City.



#### Low feed-in tariff freezes wind power projects

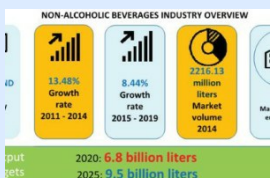
Although wind power development is considered a great potential sector in Vietnam, investors have been hesitant to develop new or expand their existing projects due to the low regulated selling price of wind power lengthening the time to recover investment capital by a significant margin.



#### APEC officials debate free trade

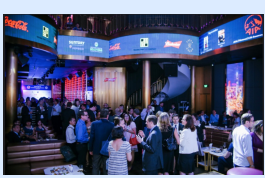
APEC's Committee of Industry and Trade (CIT) on Friday continued its two-day meeting in HCM City.

Marie Sherylyn D Aquia, chair of the CTI, told Viet Nam News: "We continue to have discussions so we can have some very good deliverables for the November meeting. So we had a discussion on free trade facilitation in the Asia-Pacific. We also had discussions on trade facilitation."



#### Sugary drinks may get unsavoury tax

The Ministry of Finance is proposing the levy of a special consumption tax of 10-20 per cent on sugary drinks to combat obesity rates, though a similar proposal was rejected by the government three years ago. VIR's Van Thu offers insight into the hot debate surrounding the new proposal.



## 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. Click **HERE** for registered participant list.

**BOOK NOW!**

## Events, Meetings, Special Offers



## An exclusive offer for you - 10% DISCOUNT of LevelOne SAIGON's meeting rooms

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## Sep 8 Nghe An: Opportunities for Your Business Growth

Nghe An has recently become an investment destination for many reputable corporations locally and internationally. In 2016, nearly 1,900 newly enterprises were established in the province. VSIP, in collaboration with Nghe An People's Committee cordially invites you to our upcoming seminar on 8 Sept. Join with us and figure out how to take uncertainty and turn it to mean just one thing when investing in Nghe An: Opportunity.



## Sep 12 Legal & VBF Liaison Committee September Meeting (For Members Only)

Regular monthly meeting of the committee to review upcoming events, discuss and prepare positions on key issues, laws and regulations relating to trade and investment between Vietnam and the United States.



## 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.

## Sep 13 Suppliers & Manufacturers Networking Night 2017



We would like to invite you to the Networking Night with Manufacturers and Suppliers after matching session. You will join the wrap-up meeting and the Supplier Day Management Team will briefly report the result of matching meeting between Manufacturers and Suppliers. After that you can meet and network with all of them and hear more about their experience at matching meetings.



## 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.



## 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.



## Sep 27 AmCham Palooza Party

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.



## 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.



## Dec 02 The 242nd Annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Join the 242nd U.S. Marine Corps Ball at The Reverie Saigon Hotel. Celebrating the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1775, the Ball is an annual event to showcase and celebrate the history and tradition of the U.S. Marines. It is a formal event with military dignity and pageantry. The U.S. Marines invite AmCham companies to join in the celebration.

The Marine Security Detachment, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam would like to invite you to attend our

celebration. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at this year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball!



### **Dec 09 22nd Annual AmCham Governors' Ball - SAVE THE DATE**

The AmCham Board of Governors cordially invites you to the 22nd Annual AmCham Governors' Ball, this year to be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 6:30 pm. Our theme will be announced soon.

This year's holiday fête will feature unsurpassed gourmet fare, currently under creation by the InterContinental's Chef, diverse and first-class musical entertainment, and, of course, the usual abundance of holiday fellowship and cheer.



### **Dec 10 5th Annual Breakfast with Santa - SAVE THE DATE**

Get ready and excited once again to see Santa and welcome our friends from an Orphanage Organization or Open House (name to be provided) at the 5th Annual AmCham Breakfast with Santa.



### **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](http://www.amchamvietnam.com):
- Announcement in Weekly Email
- E-Blast Advertising

**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 Premium Member - Bronze level**

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](#).



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## **JLL appointed as Lead Marketing Agent for OneHub Saigon**

Ho Chi Minh City, 8 August 2017 - Ascendas Saigon Bund Company Limited has today officially appointed JLL as the Lead Marketing Agent for OneHub Saigon, the first integrated business park in Vietnam. A signing ceremony took place at Ascendas Saigon Bund office in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam..



## **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 are the feelings society, community and customers have for products, services or organisations.



## **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



## 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.



## 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).



## 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](#).



## 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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