



PRESS RELEASE

AMCHAM VIETNAM AND AMERICAN APPAREL & FOOTWEAR ASSOCIATION ORGANIZE PRODUCT SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE

Ho Chi Minh City, October 19, 2017, American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Vietnam), Ho Chi Minh City Chapter and American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) organize AAFA's 2017 Product Safety and Compliance Conference at The Reverie Saigon, located at 22 – 36 Nguyen Hue Blvd, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, following the successful event last year.

Product safety, responsible sourcing, compliance, and transparency are the backbone of successful and respected supply chains. These topics receive a lot of attention from international organizations and countries. AAFA brings together industry leaders to 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 in 2017 begins with a focus on the trade outlook in Washington DC, post Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, and what that means for Vietnam. Mr. Jon Fee, Senior Counsel of Alston & Bird LLP shares the potential opportunities and implications for Vietnamese apparel and footwear exporters in the post TPP world. He highlights programs of possible interest included Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), European Union – Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Vietnam's complementary Two Corridors and One Economic Circle Plan. For the 12 months ending Aug. 31, 2017, U.S. apparel imports from Vietnam increased 8.74%, and U.S. footwear imports from Vietnam increased 11.83%. Vietnam is a robust exporter of apparel and footwear to the U.S., second only to China in both. Its growth in apparel and footwear exports to the United States continues to outpace that of its competitors for the U.S. apparel market, even without the benefit of any trade preference program or free trade agreement. U.S. retailers and consumers continue to recognize Vietnam's strengths in quality, price, and delivery.

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Representatives from the Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP) will then discuss how the supply chain is fragmented and increasingly complex. The apparel and footwear supply chain is operating in an environment where reputation and management are global issues, with very high stakes. As for social compliance auditing, it is an increasingly important aspect of supply chain management, especially given how today's global value chain operates in an instant communication environment.

The 2017 conference also discusses countering human trafficking throughout the supply chain, working conditions to keep workers safe in the factory, and ensuring factory compliance with regards to regulations, chemicals, and sustainability. The speakers will discuss detoxing the supply chain and how to proactively prevent the use of restricted chemicals early in manufacturing processes.

ABOUT AMCHAM

AmCham Vietnam in HCM City is an independent association of American and international businesses. With more than 450 member and associate companies, and over 1,000 representatives, our membership of manufacturing, brand management, transportation and logistics, professional services, and travel and tourism 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 states and local chambers, 830 business associations, and 102 [American Chambers of Commerce](#) in 82 countries.

ABOUT the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA):

The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. Representing more than 1,000 world famous name brands, retailers, and manufacturers — AAFA is the trusted public policy and political voice of the apparel and footwear industry, its management and shareholders, its nearly four million U.S. workers, and its contribution of \$384 billion in annual U.S. retail sales. AAFA provides exclusive expertise in supply chain management, trade policy, and brand protection, to help our members navigate the complex regulatory environment and lower costs. Members gain unparalleled access to information and exclusive insights on regulation and policy, and premier opportunities for networking and collaboration.