

Dear Friends

During the course of the Vietnam Business Forum (“VBF”) meeting held in Hanoi on December 1st 2015 several of the business groups and working groups raised issues related to Visas.

Amcham have been lobbying for reciprocal visa arrangements in that Vietnamese Citizens applying for visas to visit the USA are granted 12 month multiple entry visas whereas US Citizens applying for visas to enter Vietnam are given 3 month visas.

In response the representative of the Ministry of Public Security (“MPS”) affirmed that they are working with the ministry of Foreign Affairs so that US Citizens will be granted 12 month multiple entry visas.

The Japanese Business Association raised the point that the terms of their visa exemption prohibits a return within 30 days which is causing problems for Vietnamese business men and they also complained about the long waiting time for visa on arrival at Noi Bai airport, where one of their members had to wait 90 minutes recently.

The representative of MPS advised that for visitors from Visa Exempt countries travelling in tour groups, provided they could show onward tickets out of Vietnam they could return within 30 days and pay a US\$ 5 fee for Visa on Arrival. He also added that Electronic visas are now being considered.

The Australian Business Association raised the issue of Visa Exemption for citizens of Australia and New Zealand.

Again there was a favourable response to this from MPS as the representative stated that Visa exemption would soon be granted.

Authors comments – This is good news as we understand that Australia and New Zealand are on a list of 19 countries being proposed for visa exemption so we are hopeful that another batch will be announced soon.

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