

# AVPI24 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Adelaide | 17 October 2024

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
8:45am	<i>Registration open</i>	
9:30am	<b>Welcome remarks</b>	<b>Dr Jana Phan</b> Member, AVPI Advisory Board  Director of Stewardship and Sustainability Policy, CropLife Australia
9:35am	<b>Opening remarks</b>	<b>Dr Huong Le Thu</b> Chair, AVPI Advisory Board  Deputy Director, Asia Program, International Crisis Group
9:45am	<b>South Australia and Vietnam</b>	<b>The Hon Joe Szakacs MP</b> Minister for Trade and Investment, Government of South Australia
9:55am	<p><b>A dynamic relationship: Recent developments in Australia-Vietnam relations</b></p> <p>The Australia-Vietnam relationship, built over the last 50 years, has entered a new era. The elevation of diplomatic relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in March 2024 has opened the door to enhanced trade, investment, and commercial ties between the two nations.</p> <p>Learn about key developments in the bilateral relationship over the last 12-months and discover how Australian businesses, investors and organisations can engage in the opportunities of this elevated partnership.</p>	<p><b>Ms Louise Adams</b> Chief Operating Officer, Aurecon</p> <p>Australia's Southeast Asia Business Champion for Vietnam</p>
10:10am	<p><b>Vietnam's political landscape: Domestic changes and foreign policy impacts</b></p> <p>Few countries in Asia – or indeed the world – can claim the long-term political stability of Vietnam. But the recent passing of Party Secretary General Nguyen Phu Trong, a key figure in Vietnamese politics for over a decade, has triggered key leadership changes. Notably, To Lam, the former minister for public security, now holds two of the four top leadership positions simultaneously. Will these shifts in Vietnam's political landscape impact how it engages with the world via its “bamboo diplomacy”?</p> <p>This session will offer insights into Vietnam's political structures and explore the implications of these developments for the country's domestic and foreign policy, particularly ahead of the 14th Party Congress in 2026.</p>	<p><b>Dr Huong Le Thu</b> Chair, AVPI Advisory Board</p> <p>Deputy Director, Asia Program, International Crisis Group</p>

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10:25am	<p><b>Opportunities and obstacles: Vietnam's economic outlook</b></p> <p>Vietnam's export-driven manufacturing sector, strong domestic demand and increasing global economic integration have propelled it to become one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies.</p> <p>Hear about the forces driving Vietnam's robust GDP growth and explore its likely trajectory, including the reforms, global and market conditions needed to guarantee future growth.</p>	<p><b>Professor Peter Draper</b> Executive Director, Institute for International Trade, University of Adelaide</p>
10:40am	<p><b>Panel: Vietnam in 2024</b></p> <p>With the signing of the long-awaited Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, 2024 has proven to be a consequential year for Australia-Vietnam relations.</p> <p>The panel will discuss recent bilateral, economic and political developments to offer a view on the future of the relationship.</p>	<p><b>Mr Layton Pike</b> Executive Director, International, RMIT University</p> <p><b>Ms Louise Adams</b> Chief Operating Officer, Aurecon</p> <p><b>Dr Huong Le Thu</b> Chair, AVPI Advisory Board</p> <p><b>Professor Peter Draper</b> Executive Director, Institute for International Trade, University of Adelaide</p>
11:00am	<i>Morning break</i>	
11:15am	<p><b>Interactive workshop: Shaping the Future: Vietnam's Transition Across Key Sectors</b></p> <p>This immersive workshop will explore the future of Australia-Vietnam collaboration. As Vietnam's economy surges, it opens up exciting opportunities for Australia across key sectors, particularly in those sectors that align with Vietnam's economic development priorities and growing consumer class. From the green economy to the visitor economy, and the digital economy, this workshop will delve into key sectoral insights and drivers of Vietnam's economic transformation.</p> <p>During this interactive session you will be transported to a future where Australia and Vietnam have forged powerful partnerships. Together, we'll uncover the insights and strategies that will shape our engagement—what will this future look like, and how will we get there? Join us to contribute and shape our future with Vietnam.</p>	<p><b>Asialink Business</b></p>
11:15am	<p><b>Interactive workshop: Australia's Vietnamese diaspora – Harnessing our national asset</b></p> <p>This interactive workshop will focus on the importance of building trust and mutual understanding, including to help facilitate greater two-way trade and investment, and people-to-people links. Discussion will focus on how to better harness the expertise and connections of diaspora community.</p> <p>Using recent data and research from the RMIT Trade and Innovation Hub and Asia Society Australia, this session will prompt participants to reflect on the role Vietnamese-Australians play across the bilateral relationship.</p> <p>With a constructive mandate to identify practical ways of better engaging Vietnamese Australians, the session will probe how Australia's Vietnamese diaspora can help to advance the bilateral relationship in business, education and government relations.</p>	<p><b>Asia Society Australia</b></p>

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12:15pm	<i>Networking lunch</i>	
1:00pm	<b>Keynote remarks: Governor of South Australia</b>	<b>Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC</b> Governor of South Australia
1:10pm	<b>Innovation and impact: Updates from the AVPI network</b>  The AVPI's strength lies in its diverse network of Australian businesses, governments, think tanks, not-for-profits, academics and industry representatives committed to advancing the Australia-Vietnam relationship.  Discover what three members of the AVPI's national network have been up to over the last 12 months.	<b>Ms Saskia Loer Hansen</b> Deputy Vice-Chancellor International and Engagement, RMIT University  <b>Mr Edwin Law</b> Executive Director, AusCham Vietnam  <b>Ms Lily Tao</b> Project Lead, Beanstalk AgTech
2:00pm	<b>Panel discussion: Vietnam's economic transformation – where to next?</b>  A remarkable economic transformation over the last two decades has established Vietnam as one of the region's most dynamic economies.  But in a competitive global economy and increasingly complex region, maintaining this position and avoiding the middle-income trap is far from assured.  The panel will discuss the forces behind Vietnam's rapid economic transformation and explore the technologies and other factors key to the next phase of Vietnam's development.	<b>Dr Huong Le Thu</b> Chair, AVPI Advisory Board  <b>Ms Robyn Mudie</b> First Assistant Secretary, Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division, DFAT  <b>Ms Louise Adams</b> Chief Operating Officer, Aurecon  <b>Mr Francis Wong OAM</b> Organising Chairman, Australia ASEAN Business Forum
2:45pm	<i>Afternoon break</i>	
3:15pm	<b>The AVPI action agenda: Capturing conference outcomes</b>  The AVPI works closely with its partners, network and stakeholders to develop resources, share insights and offer advice to enhance the Australia-Vietnam economic, political and bilateral relationship.  Join Australia's Business Champion for Vietnam and AVPI Advisory Board member, Ms Louise Adams, for a wrap-up of the key conference outcomes.	<b>Ms Louise Adams</b> Chief Operating Officer, Aurecon  Australia's Southeast Asia Business Champion for Vietnam
3:30pm	<b>Keynote remarks: Australian Government</b>	<b>Senator the Hon Don Farrell</b> Minister for Trade and Tourism and Special Minister of State
3:45pm	<b>Keynote remarks: Government of Vietnam</b>	<b>H.E. Mr Bùi Thanh Sơn</b> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
4:00pm	<b>Keynote remarks: Government of Vietnam</b>	<b>H.E. Dr Nguyễn Chí Dũng</b> Minister of Planning and Investment
4:10pm	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Dr Huong Le Thu</b> Chair, AVPI Advisory Board
4:20pm	<i>Networking drinks</i>	
6:15pm	<i>Event close</i>	