



Australia Vietnam  
Policy Institute



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# AVPI25 Conference Program

28 October 2025 | Sky Room BCEC, Brisbane



Time	Session	Presenter(s)
8:45 am	<b>Registration and networking</b>	
9:15 am	<b>Welcome remarks</b>	<b>Ms Alyna Pham</b> <b>(Master of Ceremonies)</b> Founder, AusViet Bridge; Founder, Ignite Her Spark; Partnership & Community Manager, Global Viet Women; Australia-Vietnam Leadership Dialogue alumnus
9:20 am	<b>Australia-Vietnam: Matching the strong partnership with economic ambition</b>  It has now been over a year since Australia and Vietnam elevated their relationship to the status of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), building on a history of bilateral and regional cooperation across trade, development, education and security.  In this session, representatives of the Australian Government and Government of Vietnam will reflect on the partnership, current priorities, the contributions of non government organisations, and the opportunities presented by Vietnam's dynamic economy.	<b>Ms Caroline Linke</b> Assistant Secretary, Vietnam and Mekong Strategy, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  <b>Mr Nghiem Xuan Hoa</b> Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

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9:40 am	<p><b>Keynote speech: ‘Australia-Vietnam – Partnership as a path through uncertainty’, followed by Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>Australia’s previous Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr Andrew Goledzinowski AM, helped elevate the bilateral relationship to a CSP, and he has since won a number of awards for his continued commitment to strengthening ties.</p> <p>In this keynote speech, Mr Goledzinowski will share his insights into the trajectory of the Australia-Vietnam relationship, and unpack how the long-term and stable partnership between the two countries presents policy and economic opportunity, even as the Asia-Pacific trading environment becomes increasingly uncertain.</p> <p>The event MC will then facilitate questions from the audience.</p>	<p><b>Mr Andrew Goledzinowski AM</b> Former Australian Ambassador to Vietnam; AVPI Fellow</p>
10:25 am	<b>Morning tea</b>	
10:45 am	<p><b>A local perspective on cooperation: Queensland and Vietnam</b></p> <p>Queensland and Vietnam have a multifaceted and mutually beneficial relationship, built on a strong Vietnamese diaspora, international education, investment and trade. Vietnam was Queensland’s fifth largest export market by value in 2023–24. Hear about the Queensland Government’s priorities for engagement and how the State is supporting closer business ties.</p>	<p><b>Ms Michelle Matthews</b> Global Investment Commissioner, Queensland Government</p>
10:55 am	<p><b>Trade and investment opportunities in Vietnam’s era of ‘National rise’</b></p> <p>The Government of Vietnam has stated its commitment to ushering in a new era of ‘national rise’, and Vietnam’s economy continues to grow rapidly, driven by ambitious government policies, a burgeoning middle class, and the requirements of industry. Australia is benefiting from this growth, with two-way trade continuing to advance at a rapid pace.</p> <p>Chaired by Australia’s Southeast Asia Business Champion for Vietnam, this session will include three case studies in successful engagement as well as a panel discussion to unpack key insights and opportunities facing two-way trade and investment.</p>	<p><b>Ms Louise Adams</b> CEO, Aurecon; Australia’s SE Asia Business Champion for Vietnam; AVPI Advisory Board Member</p> <p><b>Mr Truong Quang Quoc Dai (Hudson Truong)</b> Vice President Agricultural Development, AgriS; General Manager, Global Mind Australia</p> <p><b>Dr Binh Tran</b> Head of Consulting, FPT Australasia</p> <p><b>Dr Truc Le</b> Lead, Visitor Economy Data Analytics and Indicators Cluster, Griffith University</p>
12:10 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	

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1:10 pm	<p><b>Navigating Nuance: Doing Business Better in Vietnam</b></p> <p>Vietnam is one of Southeast Asia’s most dynamic and rapidly evolving markets, and it offers significant opportunities for Australian businesses. Yet success in Vietnam demands more than commercial ambition –it requires deep cultural intelligence, trusted relationships, and patient, strategic engagement.</p> <p>This panel will explore practical strategies for localisation, partnership building, talent development, and risk navigation in the Vietnamese context</p>	<p><b>Mr James Scullin (Chair)</b> Director Programs, Asia Society Australia</p> <p><b>Ms Minh Cao</b> Senior Service Quality Adviser, Austrade; Co-Founder, Global Viet Women</p> <p><b>Mr Marc Slater</b> CEO, eReflect</p> <p><b>Ms Janelle Casey</b> Senior Adviser, Beanstalk</p>
2:10 pm	<p><b>Sustainability, supply and security: Vietnam’s energy transition and its implications</b></p> <p>The Australia-Vietnam CSP recognises energy as a priority for cooperation, including to support economic development, climate action and the security of energy supplies. As Vietnam continues its transition to clean energy, one of the fastest in Southeast Asia, learn about some of the implications for Australia and the wider region.</p>	<p><b>Professor Adrian Panow</b> Director, Energy Transition Network, University of Queensland</p>
2:25 pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	
2:45 pm	<p><b>Workshop: The green economy’s implications for bilateral business cooperation</b></p> <p>This immersive workshop will explore the future of Australia-Vietnam collaboration through the lens of the global, regional and bilateral shift to a ‘greener’ economy. From the energy to finance and skills, participants will be supported to unpack the drivers of this shift and what these might mean for their own organisations.</p>	<p><b>Ms Catherine Mudford (Co-chair)</b> Acting CEO, Asialink Business</p> <p><b>Mr Shiraz Engineer (Co-chair)</b> Head, Asialink Business Academy</p> <p><b>Ms Louise Tran</b> Head, OzHarvest Ventures</p>
4:15 pm	<p><b>Conference outcomes and the AVPI’s priorities for 2026</b></p> <p>The AVPI’s strength lies in its diverse network of Australian and Vietnamese businesses, government agencies, think tanks, not-for-profits, academics and industry representatives committed to advancing the Australia-Vietnam relationship.</p> <p>Closing the substantive discussion, Mr Layton Pike will summarise AVPI25’s key outcomes and reflect on how the AVPI will use these to inform policy development and shape the AVPI’s priorities into 2026.</p>	<p><b>Mr Layton Pike</b> Co-Founder AVPI, AVPI Advisory Board member, and Interim DVC International &amp; Engagement, RMIT University</p>
4:30 pm	<b>Formal close, invitation to join networking drinks</b>	<b>Ms Alyna Pham</b>
4:30 pm	<b>Networking drinks</b>	
6:30 pm	<b>Event close</b>	