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# Vietnam Mid-Year Update 2025

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

### Emeritus Professor Carlyle A. Thayer



Carlyle A. Thayer is an Emeritus Professor at the University of New South Wales (UNSW Canberra) and the Director of Thayer Consultancy. He was educated at Brown (BA Political Science, 1967), Yale (MA Southeast Asian Studies, 1971) and the Australian National University (PhD International Relations, 1977). He served in South Vietnam with the International Voluntary Services (1967-68) and Botswana with the Unitarian Universalist Committee (1968-69). He joined UNSW in 1979 and taught in the Faculty of Military Studies at the Royal Military College-Duntroon (1979-85) before transferring to UNSW at the Australian Defence Force Academy (1985-2010). Thayer was seconded to the Department of Political and Social Change, Research School of Pacific Studies at the ANU to research domestic Vietnamese politics (1991-94); given leave “in the national interest” to take up a senior appointment at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, U.S. Pacific Command (1999-2002); seconded to Deakin University as On Site Academic Coordinator for the senior Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, Australian Defence College, Weston Creek (2002-04); and seconded to the Australian Command and Staff College, Weston Creek (2006-07 and 2010). During his career Thayer spent sabbatical leave at Yale’s Department of Political Science, Harvard’s Centre for International Studies, ANU’s Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, Institute for Security and International Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, and Christian Albrechts Universität in Kiel, Germany. He was appointed C. V. Starr Distinguished Visiting Professor at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University in Washington (2005) and the Frances M. and Stephen H. Fuller Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio (2008). Thayer is a Southeast Asia regional specialist. He has published extensively on Vietnam’s domestic politics, foreign policy, role of the military and maritime disputes in the South China Sea. He is the author of *War By Other Means: National Revolution and Liberation in Viet Nam, 1954-1960* republished as volume 7 in *Routledge Library Editions: Revolution in Vietnam Series* [London: Routledge Publishers (Taylor & Francis Group), 2021].

### Professor Long Chu



Long Chu is an economist at Crawford School of Public Policy, specialising in applied modelling and quantitative analysis to support policymaking and evaluate policy impact. With expertise in various areas, including structural reforms, international trade, green growth strategies, resource management, and sustainable development, Long brings profound knowledge to his field. His contributions have been recognised with numerous prestigious awards and honours, such as the Eureka Prize (often referred to as the ‘Oscar’ in Australian science) and the Prize for the Quality of Research Discovery presented by the Australasian Agricultural & Resource Economics Society. Other recognition of his work includes the 2025 Award to Outstanding Contribution to Vietnam-Australia Relationship and the 2023 Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Vietnam Research Community in Australia, by Vietnam’s Ambassador to Australia.

Long has extensive work experience in and with many policymaking organisations in Vietnam. He is the Director of the Hub for Vietnam Policy Studies at Crawford School and also the Editor-in-Chief of *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*.

## Dr Mai Nguyen



Mai Nguyen is a Research Fellow at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. She currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Hub for Vietnam Policy Studies and as Manager of the Water Justice Hub. Before joining the Crawford School, she spent a decade as an economist and policymaker at Vietnam's Ministry of Finance (formerly the Ministry of Planning and Investment), where she developed expertise in research and policymaking related to international and domestic trade. Her current research focuses on international trade, economic growth, environmental economics, and environmental justice. Mai holds a PhD in Economics from ANU.

## Dr Thang Do



Thang Do is a Fellow at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, where he leads research on energy transition, climate policy, and water governance in Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on Vietnam and the Mekong region. With over 25 years of experience in policy and academia, Dr Do has served as Deputy Director General for International Cooperation at Vietnam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, chaired the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change, and represented Vietnam in regional environmental partnerships.

## Dr Lien Le



Lien Le is a Research Fellow at the Water Justice Hub and the Hub for Vietnam Policy Studies, Crawford School of Public Policy. Prior to this role, she served as Vice Director of the Centre for Agricultural Policy at Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (now the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment). She has also worked as a national coordinator and consultant for development projects in the agriculture and rural development sector in Vietnam and the Lower Mekong Basin. Her research focuses on applied, interdisciplinary approaches to support decision-making in agriculture, water, and climate policy, with an emphasis on sustainable and inclusive development, as well as the welfare and livelihoods of vulnerable communities. Her PhD explored agrarian transformations in the Lower Mekong Basin.