

About the Contributors

Scott Fritzen has a Ph.D. in Public Affairs from Princeton University and is Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. His applied research and consulting practice focus on decentralization, public-sector capacity building and social policy reform in several Southeast Asian countries.

Michael Gray is a freelance writer and editor with an M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies. He worked in Hanoi for four years, including two years with the local media and two years as a volunteer for the NGO Towards Ethnic Women.

Eva Hansson is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, currently teaching in comparative politics and in international relations. Her Ph.D. project "Civil Society and Democratization: Trade Unions in Liberalizing Southeast Asia" focuses on the role of trade unions in the process of political liberalization in Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia. She is co-editor (with Beckman and Román) of *Vietnam: Reform and Transformation* (1997) and (with Beckman and Sjögren) of *Civil Society and Authoritarianism in the Third World* (2001).

Russell H.K. Heng is a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asia (ISEAS) in Singapore. He has a Ph.D. from the Australian National University where he wrote a dissertation on the politics of the mass media in Vietnam. He looks at the development of civil society in Vietnam and other authoritarian polities.

Benedict J. Tria Kerkvliet, head of the Department of Political and Social Change at the Australian National University, does research on agrarian politics and state–society relations, particularly in the Philippines and Vietnam. He is currently co-editing a book on local government and authority in Vietnam.

David Koh is a Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. A graduate of the National University of Singapore, he completed his Ph.D. studies at the Australian National University where he wrote a dissertation entitled “The Ward and State-Society Relations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.” He continues to keenly watch Vietnamese politics, culture, and society, while developing a new interest in Political Islam.

Jonathan R. Stromseth is currently the Representative of The Asia Foundation in Vietnam. Prior to joining The Asia Foundation in 1998, he taught courses on Indochina and Southeast Asia at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York City. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia, where his research focused on political and economic reforms in Vietnam since the mid-1980s.

Thaveeporn Vasavakul has a Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University and is an independent researcher affiliated with the Centre for Vietnamese and Intercultural Studies, Hanoi, Vietnam, and the Institute of Security and International Studies, Bangkok, Thailand. She served as the Resident Director for the Council on International Educational Exchange’s programme in Hanoi between 1998 and 2002 and its Southeast Asian Regional Director from 2000 to 2002. Her current research projects focus on the political reform in Vietnam and comparative political transition in Southeast Asia.

Ivo Vasiljev has a Ph.D. in Vietnamese language from the Oriental Institute, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and is author of *In Search of the Heritage of the Ancient Viet* (Prague 1999, in Czech). Currently he is a freelance scholar and an overseas associate member of the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Hanoi.

Nguyen Quang Vinh is a sociologist affiliated with the Institute of Social Sciences in Ho Chi Minh City, where he was once Deputy Director. He also headed the Centre for Sociology at the National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, Institute of Social Sciences in Ho Chi Minh City. His research focuses on the sociology of urban housing, development and management, living standard and poverty assessment, and the development of urban societal organizations.

Joerg Wischermann has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Freie Universitaet Berlin, where he now works as Research Fellow and Lecturer. His research interests are: democratic transition in Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in particular), new political movements and advocacy organizations in developing countries, the usefulness of the Internet for Southeast Asian studies and new social movements in Western Europe.