

Citation for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of the University
to
Mr Hieu Van Le AO, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia

Hieu Van Le was born in Vietnam in 1954. Until he left twenty three years later, he could not recall a day free of the gunshots, rockets and violence of a country in strife. During that period many of his relatives and family friends were killed.

He left Vietnam as a refugee in 1977. After perilous journeys he landed in Darwin. Soon afterwards, he and his wife arrived in Adelaide. They were among the first Vietnamese boatpeople in South Australia.

The following year Hieu Van Le enrolled at Adelaide University, to complete a degree in Economics and Accounting. He also worked as a Finance Officer for the Health Commission and became actively involved supporting the emergent Vietnamese community.

Subsequently, he joined the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). In a distinguished career with ASIC, he has had responsibility for regulating the State's financial services industry and investment markets.

Hieu Van Le's early work with the Vietnamese community soon expanded to embrace the diversity of cultures who 'call Australia home'. His passion for multiculturalism and 'the fair go' became the driving force in his community work. In 1995 he was appointed to the Board of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission. In 2006, after serving for three years as Deputy Chairman, he was appointed Chairman of the Commission, the first person of Asian ethnic background to hold that position.

In 2007 he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of South Australia. He was the first Asian-born Australian to hold Vice-Regal office in South Australia and the first Vietnamese refugee ever to be appointed to a Vice Regal position anywhere in the world. Announcing the appointment, Premier Rann described Hieu Van Le as 'a symbol of all that is best about our multicultural society' and his story as one of 'courage, bravery against all odds and an example of what can be achieved in the face of huge disadvantages and obstacles which included language and cultural barriers'. Flinders is proud of its many associations with this inspirational South Australian.

Hieu Van Le is currently Patron or Honorary Member of numerous organizations, including festival boards, community associations, educational trusts and welfare bodies. He is also a member of the State's Community Engagement Board.

Hieu Van Le is a strong supporter of the Migrant and Refugee Research Cluster at Flinders University. He was an inaugural speaker at the opening of the cluster, and has held a number of events in conjunction with Flinders University in these areas. He provides a link for researchers into ethnic communities in Adelaide and beyond.

In addition to his Bachelor's degree, he holds a Master of Business Administration from Adelaide University and is a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants and a Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia.

Hieu Van Le's outstanding professional contribution to ASIC was recognized by the Australia Day Medal in 1996. His extensive service to the community and to multiculturalism have been recognized by the award of a Centenary of Federation Medal and, most recently, by his appointment in January this year as an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

I am delighted to nominate Mr Hieu Van Le AO, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, for the award of Doctor of the University, *honoris causa*, in recognition of his distinguished service to the public of South Australia.