THE WORLD & VIETNAM REPORT
THẾ GIỚI & VIỆT NAM

VIAwards and the journey of connecting Vietnamese people with international friends.

Le An - 14:29 | 09/11/2026

The Vietnam International Awards 2026 (VIAwards) marked its 5th anniversary on November 7th with a series of activities honoring outstanding achievements, cultural heritage, and the spirit of international cooperation in London, United Kingdom.

Attending the ceremony were Mr. Warwick Morris, former British Ambassador to Vietnam; Ms. Dao Thi Hong, Secretary of the Vietnamese Embassy in the United Kingdom; Professor Michael Mainelli, former Mayor of the London Financial District; Mr. Jonathan Van-Tam MBE, former Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the UK; and 200 guests from Europe, Australia, the Americas, and Vietnam.

With the theme “Vietnam Forward: Vision - Impact - Alliance”, the program brought together more than 200 guests including business leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, academics, medical, legal and financial experts, as well as artists, content creators, philanthropists and community representatives.



Founders Nguyen Nhu Thoai (left) and Hoang Ha (right) present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Warwick Morris, former British Ambassador to Vietnam and co-founder of Vietnam-UK Network. (Source: Organizing Committee)

The gala night honored individuals within the Vietnamese community worldwide who have made positive contributions to the societies in which they live, while also recognizing

Vietnamese and international individuals and organizations that have made practical contributions to Vietnam.

Twelve categories honor outstanding contributions and emerging talents.

The VIAwards 2026 received over 140 applications, of which 95 from 15 countries were eligible for consideration. The applications came from a wide range of fields, reflecting the international scope of the award.

This year's awards comprise 12 categories, including Legal Excellence, Financial and Business Leadership, Culinary and Hospitality, Education, Healthcare, Technology and Digital Innovation, Global Innovation, Architectural Design, Creativity, Content Creator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and the People's Choice Award.



Twelve individuals and one organization received the VIAward 2026 international award in London. (Source: Organizing Committee)

Two new categories were introduced in 2026. Content Creator of the Year recognizes the growing influence of storytellers and creators on digital platforms. The People's Choice Award provides an opportunity for the public to directly select individuals whose contributions inspire them.

The award honors Vietnamese people who have made significant contributions to the societies where they live, while also recognizing promising individuals in the Vietnamese community worldwide and individuals and organizations both domestically and internationally who have made practical contributions to Vietnam.

On the occasion of its 5th anniversary, the two co-founders of VIAwards, Nguyen Nhu Thoai and Hoang Ha, shared: “VIAwards began with the desire to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions. Over the years, the award has gradually become a place to honor courage, creativity, and compassion.”

By sharing the stories of those who are doing good for their communities, we hope that young people will feel more proud of their roots and believe that they too can create change. We hope that you will continue the good deeds that previous generations have built, helping communities to come closer together and build a more sustainable future."



Professor Michelle Hermiston, Dean and Scientific Director at the School of Health Sciences, VinUni University, co-received the Excellence Award in the field of healthcare. (Source: Organizing Committee)

A gala night celebrating Vietnam's cultural achievements and heritage.

In addition to the awards presented in 12 categories, the gala night at Kimpton Fitzroy London also featured artistic performances showcasing Vietnamese culture in a contemporary style. Guests also enjoyed a dinner with a menu curated by the hotel's executive chef.

Within the hotel's Victorian architectural setting, guests from various countries and fields had the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and celebrate the honored achievements.

Fundraising was a central part of the gala night, featuring four live auction categories and over 30 experiences offered for private auction.

One of the standout pieces at the live auction was *The Soaring Dragon* , a Bat Trang ceramic sculpture inspired by the dragon imagery of the Ly and Tran dynasties.

Handcrafted over more than 100 hours and fired for 23 hours, this piece, with its swirling cloud motifs and golden glaze, celebrates the skill of artisans and the cultural heritage of Vietnam.

The auction also featured *Gracefulness in the Moonlight* , a double-sided embroidery artwork by XQ, and the Senzati Jet Class Experience, a road travel experience with amenities inspired by private jets.

The proceeds from the auctions will be used to support women and children, implement mentoring and career development programs for young people, and support initiatives of the Vietnamese community in the UK and around the world.



Writer Isabelle Müller and Loan Stufting at the awards ceremony. (Source: Organizing Committee)

The UK-Vietnam healthcare conference opens up opportunities for cooperation.

Prior to the awards ceremony, over 60 delegates attended the UK-Vietnam Healthcare Innovation and Investment Conference at the historic Wilkins building, on the Bloomsbury campus of University College London (UCL), during the university's 200th anniversary year.

This is a non-profit conference organized annually by VIAwards, focusing on a different field each year. The 2026 program brings together healthcare professionals, researchers, business leaders, and investment experts to exchange expertise and explore opportunities for collaboration between the United Kingdom and Vietnam.

Chaired and moderated by Dr. Linh Nguyen, Associate Professor of Biomedical Materials at UCL, the conference focused on topics such as healthcare financing and investment, opportunities and challenges in cancer care, and the safe and responsible application of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare.

Speakers and panel guests included: Sandy Boxall, CEO of Contract Finder Pro and Senior Advisor for Vietnam at Compass Capital, sharing insights on project fundraising, investment, and contract signing between the two countries; Prof. Michelle Hermiston, Director of the Institute of Health Sciences and Director of Science for Innovation in Health Sciences at VinUniversity, analyzing opportunities and challenges in cancer care in different healthcare environments; Dr. Yasmin Karsan, clinical safety specialist in digital health, founder of a health technology company, and member of the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur program, discussing innovation with AI, clinical safety, and responsible technology deployment; Assoc. Prof. Pham Cam Phuong, Director of the Center for Nuclear Medicine and Oncology, Bach Mai Hospital, Hanoi; and Dr. Biswajit Podder, Clinical Research and Analysis Manager at Bupa, London.



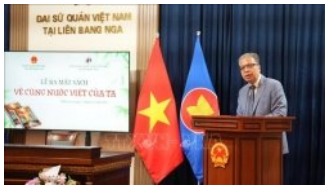
The organizing committee, the judging panel, guests, and the finalists in 12 award categories. (Source: Organizing Committee)

The panel discussion focused on the future of cancer care, innovation, and investment in healthcare. Delegates exchanged views on prospects for cooperation in the application of new technologies, the development of healthcare infrastructure, and the building of cross-border partnerships.

VIAwards is an independent, non-profit initiative established in the United Kingdom in 2022. Through its awards, annual conferences, and community programs, VIAwards recognizes outstanding contributions, connects Vietnamese people globally, and celebrates Vietnam's international friends.



Bringing Vietnamese culture to the people of Perth.
Nearly 4,000 people flocked to Forrest Place in downtown Perth, Australia, on November 7th to attend Vietnamese Culture Day...



Poetry connects Vietnamese people in Russia with their national roots.
In response to Vietnam Culture Day (November 24th), the Vietnamese Literature and Arts Association in the Russian Federation launched the poetry collection "Returning Together..."



Vietnamese expatriates in Japan contribute to fostering Vietnam-Japan relations and working together for national development.
During his official visit to Japan, on the afternoon of November 8th, General Secretary and President To Lam, along with his wife and the delegation...



Deputy Minister Le Thi Thu Hang meets with the Vietnamese community in Spain.
On November 6th, during her working visit to Spain, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Thi Thu Hang met with representatives of...



General Secretary and President To Lam: Vietnamese intellectuals in Japan are an important technological bridge.
Within the framework of his official visit to Japan, on the afternoon of November 8th (local time), General Secretary and President To Lam, along with the delegation...

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