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**The Vietnamese
Language Learning Framework**

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Preface

The *Vietnamese Language Learning Framework* is the result of the Southeast Asian Language Learning Framework project which was undertaken by the Council of Southeast Asian Language Teachers with some financial support from the Ford Foundation through the National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages. To date, the project has resulted in two publications on Southeast Asian language teaching, one directed towards teachers (*JSEALT* Vol. VIII, 1999) and the other towards students (*JSEALT* Vol. IX, 2000). The last step in this project was to develop specific frameworks for individual Southeast Asian languages.

With this issue, *JSEALT* provides an opportunity for readers to see the framework that two instructors of Vietnamese have prepared for their language. In the mid-1990s, Binh N. Ngo of Harvard and Bac Hoai Tran of the University of California, Berkeley were chosen by COTSEAL to prepare a language learning framework for Vietnamese. During these past years, I have had the privilege of working with these two authors as they have designed and developed this framework. They have presented versions of their writings at a number of professional meetings, and they have received suggestions, input and advice from a number of their colleagues.

During the course of their work, the authors decided to divide the Vietnamese framework into two parts, linguistics and pragmatics. Binh Ngo has written the linguistics section while Bac Tran has prepared the section on pragmatics and culture. Both authors have provided references and bibliographic materials that should be helpful to both teachers and students of the Vietnamese language. In addition, we have provided an appendix with information on organizations and resources that might be of particular interest to teachers. It is the hope of the authors and this editor that both teachers and students of Vietnamese will find the *Vietnamese Language Learning Framework* a useful guide for the teaching and learning of Vietnamese.

Carol J. Compton,
Editor