

**Nomination for the 2005
S. Edmund Berger Prize
in
Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation**

Nominator: **On behalf of VINATA, Lynn M. Ballas, Member of The Vietnamese Association of Translators (VINATA) Director Board.
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My nominee, Khiet (Kevin) Nguyen, deserves the S. Edmund Berger Prize based on the following criteria:

- The daunting challenge that this translation posed
- The dedication to professionalism that Kevin demonstrated in his execution of the project
- The certified success of his completed translation

The Daunting Challenge

As you will note upon review of the English source file, "*Council of The European Union: List of Dual-Use Items and Technology*," the material is of a highly complex and technical nature. The document covers the fields of nuclear science, computer science, information technology, telecommunications, electronics, military weapons systems, navigation, avionics, chemistry, biology, and physics.

Interestingly, the history of Viet Nam adds another layer of complexity to this and any translation of technical material into the Vietnamese language.

In the years following the Viet Nam war, Viet Nam was in a technological vacuum. Cut off from the United States and its allies, Viet Nam was shut out from any of the technological advances of the West.

Due to more than 30 years of division between the North and the South, Viet Nam has no common lexicon for technology terms. Each section of the country developed its own terminology. In addition, the Vietnamese professional community that emerged in this country after the mid-seventies developed its own technical language.

Kevin discovered that in some instances there were no Vietnamese terms that corresponded to the scientific and technological concepts dealt with in this document. For example, the military term “re-entry vehicle,” did not exist in Vietnamese. “End-effector,” which is a remote-controlled robot, also did not exist. Kevin created terms for dozens of such terms that did not exist or were not standardized in Vietnamese.

Dedication to Professionalism

To overcome this obstacle, Kevin did exhaustive research to establish terminology that would find broad acceptance throughout Viet Nam and in this country and to render a truly meaningful translation.

Kevin consulted with subject matter experts in the colleges and universities and corporations in the United States and Viet Nam. His goal was not only to successfully translate the material, but also to establish his translation as the gold standard for the Vietnamese community of translators.

His passion brought him to Viet Nam over the summer to work with that country’s translators, business professionals, and academics to ensure that his translation was free of syntax errors.

A Certified Success

As result of his dedication, Viet Nam’s Department of Science and Technology of Ho Chi Minh City has certified this translation and accepted it for use for training and educational purposes.

In addition, Commonwealth Trading Partners, Incorporated (CTP), the Washington-based client who commissioned Kevin to translate this document, has expressed how pleased it is with the quality of his translation. CTP (www.ctp-inc.com) provides a wide variety of export control products, technology, and services to public and private sector clients. CTP will be using Kevin’s translation as part of project to modernize the processes of the customs services of Viet Nam.

A Note on Kevin's Background

Kevin is a computer science professional with a long and distinguished career in both corporate America and academia. He is a subject matter expert in the telecommunications field, currently working in the area of emerging technologies at AT&T Labs. Kevin began his career at AT&T at the world-renowned Bell Labs in 1992, the same year he came to this country as a refugee. He is the co-author of several AT&T proprietary documents. He holds MS degrees from universities in both Viet Nam and the United States. CTP cited Kevin's credentials as the reason it selected him for this work.

Kevin has authored and translated several books in the field of computer science. In his country he was a pioneer in the field of personal computing, introducing a generation of his countrymen to the world of PCs through his books.

In Closing

I have known Kevin both personally and professionally since we began together at Bell Labs in 1992. He is a true teacher who is motivated in all of his endeavors by a pure desire to share whatever knowledge he can. His professionalism and extraordinary work ethic are exceeded only by his humble and generous spirit. If there is any more information that I can provide to help in the review of Kevin's nomination, I would be more than happy to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn M. Ballas
On behalf of The Vietnamese Association of Translators