

America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference

BOSTON GLOBAL FORUM · AI WORLD SOCIETY · LOEB HOUSE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY · MAY 1, 2026

SPECIAL PROFILE

Nguyen Anh Tuan

Position, Influence, and Intellectual Leadership

WRITTEN BY

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*Member of the Diet of Japan
Former State Minister of Japan*



I Institutional Standing

A RARE VIETNAMESE PRESENCE AT THE MOST DISTINGUISHED TABLES

Nguyen Anh Tuan is one of the rare Vietnamese figures in contemporary history to have earned recognition across three major spheres of influence at once: the American academic establishment, the international multilateral system, and the Vietnamese political system. Few people in the world achieve that — and fewer still do so by building from scratch, without the backing of a powerful family name or the early support of a major institution.

Today, he serves as **Co-Founder, Co-Chair, and CEO of the Boston Global Forum**; as a **Distinguished Member of the Steering Committee of the Wilson Center’s Institute for Strategic Competition**, the bipartisan think tank established by the United States Congress; and as **co-founder of the Indo-Pacific Spark Initiative** alongside Mark Kennedy and the Wilson Center. His footprint extends across the **G7 Summits of 2018–2019**, multiple engagements with the **United Nations**, the **G20 Summit in India in 2023**, the **White House Office of Science and Technology in 2024**, the **AI Action Summit in Paris with President Emmanuel Macron in February 2025**, the **Distinguished Keynote Address at the Headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan on the AIWS Trust Infrastructure on March 31, 2026**, and the **America at 250 Conference at Harvard’s Loeb House on May 1, 2026**.

II The Journey

FROM NHA TRANG TO HARVARD’S LOEB HOUSE

Laying the Foundation — 1990 to 2011

His journey began with two pioneering achievements: founding VietNet, Vietnam’s first TCP/IP-based Internet service provider, and founding VietNamNet in 1997, Vietnam’s first online newspaper. From that starting point, he followed a path few Vietnamese had walked before.

In 1996, at the age of 34, he was honored by the Vietnamese Government as one of the country's **Ten Most Outstanding Young Faces of the Year** for his achievement in founding VietNet. This was not recognition for ideas alone; it was recognition for a real infrastructure project, built at a time when Vietnam had barely begun to imagine digital connectivity. From VietNet, he went on to establish VietNamNet in 1997 and served as its Editor-in-Chief until 2011.

Nearly fifteen years shaping Vietnam's digital media landscape gave him more than experience. It gave him a distinctive understanding of the relationship between information, power, and society — an understanding he would later bring to the architecture of AI governance.

Building a Foundation in America — 2007 to 2012

In 2007, he arrived at Harvard as a **Shorenstein Fellow at the Kennedy School**, researching trends in the development of electronic media. This was a turning point. From 2008 to 2016, he served on the **Harvard Business School Global Advisory Board**. He also chaired the **International Advisory Committee of the UNESCO–UCLA Chair on Global Citizenship Education**. These were not merely honorary affiliations; they were working roles within the American intellectual and policy ecosystem, built through years of sustained engagement.

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The Boston Global Forum and the Building of Global Architectures — Since December 12, 2012

On December 12, 2012, together with **Governor Michael Dukakis** — three-term Governor of Massachusetts and the Democratic Party's 1988 nominee for President of the United States — and Harvard Professors **Thomas Patterson** and **John Quelch**, he co-founded the Boston Global Forum.

Beginning in 2015, he established the **World Leader for Peace and Security Award**, an annual honor recognizing Presidents, Prime Ministers, and spiritual leaders for outstanding contributions to global peace. He also founded the **World Leader in AI World Society Award**, which recognizes pioneers working to build a human-centered AI society. Over more than a decade, these awards have become mechanisms for convening a global community of leaders around the vision of BGF and AIWS.

In 2017, at Governor Dukakis's own home in Brookline, Massachusetts, the two men laid the foundations of the **AI World Society** — a political, economic, and social model for ethical, human-centered AI governance. Nguyen Anh Tuan became its chief intellectual architect, developing frameworks that range from the **Social Contract for the AI Age** in 2020 to **AIWS Government 24/7**, a model for transparent, accountable, and continuously available democratic governance in the digital era.

In July 2022, immediately following the assassination of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, he founded the **Shinzo Abe Initiative for Peace and Security** — carrying forward the legacy of a leader who had himself received BGF's World Leader for Peace and Security Award, while also deepening the strategic relationship between BGF and Japan.

VTV Person of the Year 2018 — At Harvard

In 2018, Vietnam's national broadcaster VTV named him **Person of the Year** for the AI World Society initiative, and the award ceremony was held at Harvard University in January 2019.

This event carried deep symbolic significance. For the first time in history, VTV held its Person of the Year ceremony not in Vietnam, but at one of the world's most prestigious universities — where the honoree was building global influence. It was not merely recognition of an individual. It was a declaration that Vietnam had produced someone sitting at some of the most important tables of the AI Age.

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AI Strategy Roundtable with General Secretary Tô Lâm — London, October 28, 2025

On October 28, 2025, at the historic **Raffles Hotel London**, Nguyen Anh Tuan served as co-organizer and chief moderator of an event that very few Vietnamese have ever occupied: a **High-Level AI Strategy Roundtable** bringing together **General Secretary Tô Lâm** and the senior leadership of Vietnam — including Politburo members, the First Deputy Prime Minister, and the Ministers of Defense, Public Security, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Science and Technology, and Education, as well as the Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam — alongside world-renowned strategists and experts in AI, digital governance, and semiconductor technology.

This was not an ordinary academic conference. It was a strategic consultation at the highest level of the Vietnamese state, convened through the Boston Global Forum’s international network of thinkers and experts — including:

Professor Alex Pentland · MIT

Professor Thomas Patterson · Harvard University

Mark Kennedy · Wilson Center / Former U.S. Congressman

Liam Maxwell · AWS; Former UK Government Chief Technology Officer

Tantum Collins · Former Director for Technology and National Security, White House

Glen Weyl · Microsoft Research

Lord Francis Maude · Former UK Minister for Government Reform

Lord Liam Booth-Smith · Anthropic; Former Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

Andrew Trask · DeepMind / OpenMined

At the event, he presented three comprehensive strategic programs that BGF proposed in support of Vietnam’s AI development:

AIWS Government 24/7 — a model of continuous, transparent, and trusted AI-powered governance

The Center for Digital Assets with AIWS Digital Asset Standards (AIWS-DASI) — the world’s first ethical certification system for digital assets

The AIWS Film Park — a cultural and technological innovation platform combining AI with Vietnamese heritage, positioning places such as Nha Trang, Hạ Long–Yên Tử, and Hội An as global destinations for AI-enhanced creative industries

“A rare figure trusted by both sides, with the standing to bridge both systems and the intellectual architecture to turn high-level dialogue into an actionable strategic roadmap.”

III Intellectual Creation

WHAT SETS HIM APART FROM MERE CONNECTORS

What most distinguishes Nguyen Anh Tuan is not simply the breadth of his network, but the fact that he produces original intellectual frameworks that the American and international systems take seriously.

In January 2025, he received the **UNGSII Award at Davos** — the World Economic Forum — in recognition of his outstanding contributions to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In November 2025, *CTO Magazine* published an in-depth interview titled “**Building a Responsible Digital Future: Nguyen Anh Tuan on AI Ethics, Innovation, and Global Leadership.**” The interview described him as a figure working to build a responsible digital future and challenging today’s leaders to think beyond efficiency and disruption in order to create technology that uplifts societies, preserves truth, and sustains human values in an increasingly algorithmic world. That a publication devoted to the world’s foremost technology leaders would feature a Vietnamese thinker not for a product launch or a funding round, but for a philosophy of governance, speaks to the reach his ideas have achieved.

In 2021, he served as **Editor of *Remaking the World — Toward an Age of Global Enlightenment***, published by the United Nations and the Boston Global Forum. The Vietnamese edition, published by Tri Thuc Publishing House, was presented by Vietnam’s National Assembly to every delegate — a formal acknowledgment that the book had become reference material at the highest level of the national legislature.

The true weight of that volume lies not only in its vision, but in the stature of those who chose to contribute to it under his editorship. Contributors included:

Ursula von der Leyen · *President of the European Commission*

Ban Ki-moon · *Secretary-General of the United Nations*

Shinzo Abe · *Prime Minister of Japan*

Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga · *Former President of Latvia; Chair of the Club de Madrid*

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. · *Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor; Former Dean of Harvard Kennedy School; Author of *Soft Power**

Vint Cerf · *Father of the Internet*

Judea Pearl · *Turing Award Recipient*

Alex Pentland · *Named One of the World’s Most Influential Data Scientists*

Stavros Lambrinidis · *Ambassador of the European Union to the United States*

When figures of that stature choose to appear together in a single volume, they do not do so out of courtesy alone. They do so because they believe the intellectual framework of the book is worthy of their contribution. And the person who brought them together was a Vietnamese man from Nha Trang.

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Together with **Professor Thomas Patterson** — Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press at Harvard Kennedy School, and author of works ranked among the most influential books on public opinion in the last half-century — he co-authored *AI World Society: 30 Years of US–Vietnam Partnership, from Nha Trang to Boston, 1995–2025*.

Together with **Governor Michael Dukakis**, he co-authored *America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age* — a visionary book on America’s leadership role in the AI Age, presented at the America at 250 Conference at Harvard’s Loeb House on May 1, 2026.

These two books — one with Harvard’s leading scholar of political communication, the other with a former U.S. presidential nominee — are among the clearest evidence of his standing as a genuine peer among highly influential figures, rather than merely a participant in their orbit.

He is doing what many larger organizations have yet to accomplish: defining conceptual frameworks for AI governance at a moment when the world has not yet reached consensus on the matter. In an intellectual marketplace where every major power is searching for a common language, the person who builds the vocabulary and syntax of that debate is the person with real influence — whether or not he holds formal office.

As VietNamNet observed at the close of 2025, he is a rare figure: one whose roots lie in digital journalism, yet who now leads influential international initiatives on AI governance and ethics. He represents the kind of leadership this historical moment demands — not someone who speaks about AI louder or faster than others, but someone who asks the central question: *How will AI make society better, and who will be accountable?*

“The person who builds the vocabulary and syntax of that debate is the person with real influence
— whether or not he holds formal office.”

IV *The AIWS Trust Infrastructure and the Recognitions of 2026*

FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF JAPAN’S LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO HARVARD’S LOEB HOUSE

In April and May 2026, Nguyen Anh Tuan stood at the center of three of the most consequential moments in the history of the Boston Global Forum and the AI World Society — moments in which the intellectual framework he has been building for nearly a decade was formally received by the institutions of two democratic nations on opposite sides of the Pacific.

Distinguished Keynote at the Headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan — Tokyo, March 31, 2026

On **March 31, 2026**, Nguyen Anh Tuan was invited as a **Distinguished Keynote Speaker at the Headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan** — the governing party that has shaped modern Japan for most of the post-war era — to deliver the principal address on the **AIWS Trust Infrastructure**.

For a Vietnamese thinker to be invited to address the LDP’s headquarters as the keynote authority on a question central to the next decade of Japanese national strategy is, on its own, a recognition of unusual standing. The invitation arose directly from BGF’s decade-long engagement with the legacy of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the institutional standing of the Shinzo Abe Initiative for Peace and Security, and the convergence between the AIWS Trust Infrastructure framework and Japan’s own strategic concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific order grounded in shared democratic values.

The address set out the architecture of the AIWS Trust Infrastructure as the foundational layer on which the AI age in Japan, the United States, and the broader democratic world can be safely and responsibly built — comprising the technical standards, the governance norms, and the institutional partnerships required for artificial intelligence to operate within the trust expectations of free societies.

Two Foundational White Papers — March 15 and April 26, 2026

In the spring of 2026, the Boston Global Forum and the AI World Society released two foundational white papers that, together, articulated the most comprehensive intellectual architecture for the AI age that BGF and AIWS have produced to date.

On **March 15, 2026**, BGF and AIWS published the **AIWS Trust Architecture for the AI Age — Trust Standards, Trust Infrastructure, and the Trusted Order**. The document sets out the three-tier architecture on which the AI age in the democratic world is to be built: the **Trust Standards** that define what trustworthy AI requires; the **Trust Infrastructure** that operationalizes those standards through technical, governance, and institutional mechanisms; and the **Trusted Order** that organizes nations, institutions, and civil societies around a shared commitment to human-centered artificial intelligence. It is the foundational technical-governance document of the AIWS framework.

On **April 26, 2026**, BGF and AIWS released the **AIWS Lumina — A Global Cultural Architecture for the Age of Artificial Intelligence**. Where the March 15 paper establishes the institutional and technical foundations, the Lumina white paper articulates the cultural, philosophical, and civilizational vision — the proposition that the AI age must be built not only upon verifiable trust and democratic accountability, but upon a global cultural architecture capable of sustaining human values, creative expression, and the dignity of persons in an increasingly algorithmic world.

Together, the two white papers constitute the founding documents of the **AIWS Trusted Order**: the proposition that the artificial-intelligence age must be built upon a substrate of verifiable trust, democratic accountability, and shared human

values, rather than upon the unconstrained logic of capability alone.

Keynote at the America at 250 Conference — Loeb House, Harvard University, May 1, 2026

On **May 1, 2026**, at Harvard University’s historic Loeb House, Nguyen Anh Tuan delivered the principal address at the **America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference** — the BGF–AIWS commemoration, in the year of the United States Semiquincentennial, of America’s founding promise and its role as a beacon of human-centered artificial intelligence for the world.

At the same conference, BGF and AIWS honored the **America 250 · AI Pioneers** — the fifty individuals whose work is shaping America in the Age of Artificial Intelligence. As co-architect of the AIWS Trusted Order and co-author, with Governor Michael Dukakis, of *America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age*, Nguyen Anh Tuan stood at the center of an occasion that brought together, in a single morning, the institutional weight of Harvard, the historical resonance of the American 250th anniversary, and the intellectual framework of the AIWS Trust Infrastructure.

At the same occasion, the Boston Global Forum conferred the **World Leader for Peace and Security Award 2026 upon the Leaders and the People of the United States of America** — the first time in the history of the Award that it has been presented not to an individual head of state or spiritual leader, but to an entire nation and its people. The recognition honors the United States, in the year of its 250th anniversary, for its enduring role in upholding the international order, advancing democratic values, and serving as a beacon of human-centered artificial intelligence for the world.

Three institutional moments in the spring of 2026 — the LDP Headquarters address in Tokyo, the two foundational white papers on the AIWS Trust Architecture and on AIWS Lumina, and the Loeb House keynote at Harvard — together constitute one of the clearest demonstrations to date that the AIWS Trust Infrastructure has moved from the domain of intellectual proposal into the domain of institutional adoption across the democratic world.

“From the Trust Architecture to Lumina, from the LDP Headquarters in Tokyo to the Loeb House at Harvard, the AIWS Trust Infrastructure has moved from intellectual proposal into institutional adoption across the democratic world.”

A SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT

From Governor Michael S. Dukakis

America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age is a work that both honors the 250th anniversary of the United States and looks ahead to the future of our nation and humanity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

I am proud to have co-authored this book with Nguyen Anh Tuan. He is an exceptional thinker of the AI Age, and my good friend, with a profound vision for how technology can serve humanity, strengthen trust, and uphold the values that define a free and democratic society.

At this historic moment, we hope this book will contribute to shaping a future where innovation is guided by responsibility, and where America continues to serve as a beacon for the world.

GOVERNOR MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS

*Co-Founder & Chairman, Boston Global Forum
Governor of Massachusetts (1975–1979, 1983–1991)*

Boston · April 27, 2026
At the home of Governor Michael S. Dukakis

CONCLUSION

*From the pioneer of Vietnam's Internet in 1996, to the architect of AI World Society in 2017, to the co-architect of the **AIWS Trusted Order** for the America at 250 Conference in 2026, the journey of Nguyen Anh Tuan follows a remarkably consistent line: standing at the intersection of technology, governance, and human values — and doing so with unusual foresight, often **seeing what others have not yet fully recognized**.*



AMERICA AT 250 · AI PIONEERS

Boston Global Forum · AI World Society

LOEB HOUSE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY · MAY 1, 2026