

# State Funeral for Beloved General Secretary Trong

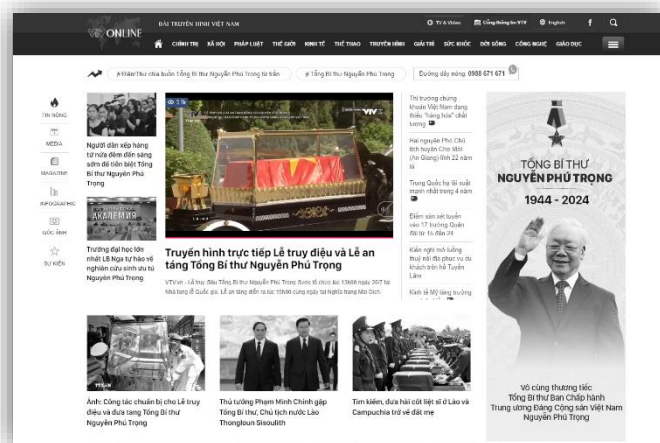
On July 19, Nguyen Phu Trong, the 80-year-old General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, passed away at the Central Military Hospital in Hanoi. His state funeral was held on the 25th and 26th at the National Funeral Home in the city.

During the time, the government requested to have half-mast and refrain from entertainment activities to express condolences.

The funeral was attended by Communist Party officials including President To Lam and international dignitaries such as former Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. The ceremony was open to the public, allowing citizens to pay their respects, and many waited in line into the late night. After the ceremony, traffic regulations were enforced to transport the body from the venue to Mai Dich cemetery, with thousands of citizens gathering along the route. Some mourners were seen crying and expressing their gratitude upon seeing Trong's coffin, highlighting the deep affection that the public held for him.



His coffin being transported to the cemetery (taken by JSI)



The website of the national broadcaster (VTV) was in black and white to express condolences. (taken by JSI)

## Mr. Trong's contribution

Mr. Trong was appointed the position of General Secretary, the highest rank in the Communist Party, in 2011 and serving his third term. In 2018, he became the third person, following the "Founding Fathers" Ho Chi Minh and Truong Chinh, to hold both the role of General Secretary and President simultaneously. Mr. Trong adopted a diplomatic approach known as "bamboo diplomacy," which involved maintaining flexible relationships with major developed countries. During his tenure, he established comprehensive strategic partnerships with six countries: China, Russia, India, South Korea, the United States, and Japan. This strategy illustrated Vietnam's astute diplomacy, as it managed to position itself on equal terms with both the U.S. and China. Additionally, he participated in multilateral trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), contributing to Vietnam's development. Domestically, Mr. Trong pursued transparency in politics and focused intensively on anti-corruption efforts as being a head of the Central Steering Committee on Anti-Corruption formed in 2013. The day before Mr. Trong's death, Vice President To Lam was appointed Acting General Secretary and delivered a eulogy as a representative of the Politburo at the state funeral. (Author: Ryuji Takai, Japan Securities Co., Ltd.)



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