

# **Vietnam and China – Challenges for the Current Relationship**

**By Ramses Amer**

## **Abstract**

The main aim of this paper will to analyse challenges to the Sino-Vietnamese relationship. The paper will take as it starting point the expanding relationship since full normalisation in 1991 in various fields. The progress in managing and resolving border disputes will be highlighted in the paper. The analysis of challenges will be divided into existing ones and potential ones. In the analysis of existing challenges to the relationship the focus will be on the remaining unsettled border issues in particular in the South China Sea. In the processes of identifying and assessing potential challenges to the bilateral relations the risks associated with economic competition and uneven trade relations will assessed as will potential conflicts over resources both living and non-living in maritime areas. The risks associated with developments affecting the Mekong River will also be assessed.

## **Bio**

*Ramses Amer*, PhD and Associate Professor in Peace and Conflict Research, is Senior Research Fellow, Center for Pacific Asia Studies (CPAS), Stockholm University, Stockholm, and Coordinator of the Swedish Network of Peace, Conflict and Development Research. Major areas of research are a) security issues and conflict

resolution in Southeast Asia and the wider Pacific Asia and b) the role of the United Nations in the international system. He is the author of *The Sino-Vietnamese Approach to Managing Boundary Disputes*, Maritime Briefing, Vol. 3, No. 5 (Durham: International Boundaries Research Unit, University of Durham, 2002). He is co-editor, with Carlyle A. Thayer, of *Vietnamese Foreign Policy in Transition* (Singapore: Institute for Southeast Asian Studies; and, New York: St Martin's Press, 1999) He has also contributed to international journals and to books and has written reports on issues of Southeast Asian Affairs and on the United Nations.