

About Us

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our programs address critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century—governance and law, economic development, women’s empowerment, environment, and regional cooperation. In addition, our Books for Asia and professional exchange programs are among the ways we encourage Asia’s continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world.



Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 17 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals. In 2012, we provided nearly \$100 million in direct program support and distributed textbooks and other educational materials valued at over \$30 million.

OUR VISION

A peaceful, just, and thriving Asia.

OUR MISSION

The Asia Foundation improves lives, expands opportunities, and helps societies flourish across a dynamic and developing Asia. We work with innovative leaders and communities to build effective institutions and advance pathbreaking reforms. Together with our partners, we are committed to Asia’s continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world.

OUR VALUES

In an increasingly complex and changing world, we believe that a peaceful and engaged Asia is of critical global importance. Five core values continue to define our work in the 21st century.

- » **Deep respect for local context.** We value local expertise and knowledge; we are immersed in the social, political, environmental, and economic realities where we work. Our approach



is centered on the catalytic role that individuals, communities, and governments play in the development of their societies.

- » **Inclusion of differing views.** We believe in the importance of myriad views and perspectives; we encourage inclusive dialogue to help ensure everyone has a seat at the table. Our mission, people, and programs are defined by our commitment to equality, particularly for women and other marginalized populations.
- » **Innovative, agile thinking.** We value fresh, original ideas and we are known for our ability to identify and respond rapidly to issues and events affecting the places where we work. Our institutional culture encourages experimentation with new approaches and sharing the results through empirical research, expert analysis, collaboration with other organizations, and outreach.
- » **Trust, accountability, and partnership.** We value collaboration and believe that working closely with forward-thinking leaders can improve lives, governance, and policies. Our operations and programs reflect the integrity and dedication of our local and international staff of development professionals.
- » **Longstanding presence and commitment.** Since our founding in 1954, we have worked side by side with dedicated individuals and institutions to make history through far-reaching reforms and inclusive development. Our impact is grounded in our ability to combine a long-term, experienced perspective with our strong network and commitment to Asian progress.

OUR IMPACT

These are some of the ways we are improving lives and expanding opportunities:

- Providing 48 million books to tens of thousands of schools, libraries, and universities.
- Organizing nationwide election monitoring and voter education to ensure free and fair elections and strengthen democracy in virtually every Asian country that has undergone a democratic transition over the past six decades.
- Educating more than a million migrant workers in over one thousand factories in China's Pearl River Delta on their legal rights, safety, and personal health.
- Protecting the basic rights of women through our work to counter human trafficking, fight gender-based violence, increase political participation, and strengthen legal systems.
- Providing life-changing professional opportunities for newly emerging Asian leaders.
- Reducing the human and financial toll of natural disasters by equipping government officials, businesses, and community leaders in disaster planning and response.
- Creating jobs by improving the business climate and reducing red tape for local entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Reducing violence through peacebuilding efforts in some of the most entrenched conflict zones in the region, including southern Thailand, Pakistan, Mindanao, and Sri Lanka.
- Conducting ground-breaking empirical surveys to assess the quality and responsiveness of government services, patterns of corruption, and levels of violence, including the most comprehensive public opinion poll in Afghanistan.

OUR APPROACH

Internationally recognized for our commitment to Asia's development, the Foundation brings together local individuals, communities, and governments who are shaping Asia's future.

OUR GOALS
improve lives, expand opportunities, help societies flourish

THE CONTEXT
a diverse, dynamic, and developing Asia

The Asia Foundation

OUR PROGRAMS
governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, environment, regional cooperation, Books for Asia, and exchanges

WHAT DISTINGUISHES US
longstanding presence and partnership across Asia

HOW WE WORK
through innovative leaders, institutions, and policies

OUR PEOPLE

The Foundation's staff of 820 international development professionals are experts on the countries in Asia where they live and work. We focus on country, regional, and cross-border issues through our network of offices in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. Please visit asiafoundation.org for a current list of staff and trustees.

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