

International Relations and Regional Cooperation

Asia faces many non-traditional security challenges at the subnational level that are closely linked to domestic, economic, political, and social issues within different countries. These challenges have important ramifications beyond national borders: from environmental degradation, natural disasters, and trafficking-in-persons to maritime security, ethnic and religious conflict, and failed systems of governance. The Asia Foundation's International Relations and Regional Cooperation Programs work to strengthen relations between the United States and Asia, and among Asian nations to foster peace, stability, and prosperity.



PROMOTING ISSUES OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Asia Foundation's signature foreign policy initiative, Asian Views on America's Role in Asia, is a series of quadrennial reports that provide diverse perspectives from influential Asian thought leaders on U.S. foreign policy priorities in Asia. Prepared in the lead up to the American presidential elections, each report contains a set of strategic recommendations related to political, security, economic and trade, and transnational issues affecting US-Asia relations.

Recognizing the importance of Washington, DC as a policymaking hub, the Foundation engages government, academic, and civil society leaders in thought-provoking discussions on issues that affect Asia. For over a decade,



the Foundation has been convening a Southeast Asia Roundtable, which brings together a select group of Southeast Asian specialists from policy, think tank, academic, diplomatic, business, and NGO communities to discuss salient issues about Southeast Asia and the importance of these issues to U.S. interests in the region.

The Asian Perspectives seminar series has provided an avenue for leading Asian voices to present and discuss issues that are both country specific and transcend national boundaries with audiences in Washington, DC. For more than 20 years, Asian experts have presented their views on many topics, including urbanization and technology in Asia, Asian approaches to development cooperation, and expanding economic opportunities for women through private sector partnerships, among other pressing issues.

THE ASIA FOUNDATION

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For more than six decades, the Foundation has built capacity in foreign affairs in every Asian nation where we have worked.

The Foundation supports policy research and stakeholder engagement on transboundary water governance.



FOSTERING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN ASIA

The Asia Foundation supports government and civil society to strengthen regional cooperation to address cross-border challenges and prevent conflict. The Foundation promotes regional cooperation in Southeast, Northeast, and South Asia through country and region-specific programs, addressing needs on a case-by-case basis and rapidly responding in the most efficient manner.

In Southeast Asia, the Foundation works with Asian governments and international law experts to increase cooperation in the region through forums addressing law and best practices for maritime boundary delimitations, climate change disaster management, counter-piracy, and cyber security. The Foundation also supports U.S.-ASEAN relations through bilateral programs tailored to directly respond to areas of interest articulated by ASEAN governments.

In Northeast Asia, the Foundation works to strengthen security architecture. We support the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), the leading Track II forum focusing on security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation also supports South Korea's efforts to address Northeast Asian security challenges through selective engagement with North Korea, including constructive dialogue and cooperation on projects to expose North Koreans to professionals and best practices in Asia. Given the increasing rise of urbanization in Asia, the Foundation organized the third annual Northeast Asia Mayor's Forum in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to discuss issues important to the socio-economic development of cities—particularly the role of NGOs in service delivery, as it is increasingly

more difficult for city governments to be the sole provider of social services.

In South Asia, 25 percent of the world's population lives where water and climate change challenges could lead to regional instability. The Foundation supports policy research and stakeholder engagement on transboundary water governance and works with organizations across the region on issues related to the management of Himalayan rivers. The Foundation also convenes regional forums to support South Asian cooperation on food, energy, and water security.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

For more than six decades, The Asia Foundation has built capacity in foreign affairs in every Asian nation where we have worked. By providing training to mid-career Asian diplomats through graduate-level coursework at universities in the United States and work placements at key government agencies and Congressional offices, The Asia Foundation gives foreign diplomats from countries such as China, India, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand tools needed to improve their government bureaucracies, advance international relations, and continue on to distinguished careers.

To strengthen ASEAN's chairmanship, the Foundation has conducted workshops and exchanges to enhance the capacity of officials to successfully meet the logistical challenges of this influential position. A strong tomorrow starts with the youth of today. The Foundation works with youth initiatives such as the U.S.-supported Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) to improve lives, create opportunities, and motivate youth throughout Southeast Asia.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 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.



HEADQUARTERS
465 California Street, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104 USA
Tel: (415) 982-4640
info@asiafound.org

WASHINGTON, DC
1779 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Suite 815
Washington, D.C. 20036 USA
Tel: (202) 588-9420
info@asiafound-dc.org

www.asiafoundation.org