

2020 Asia Foundation Development Fellows Program

The Asia Foundation Development Fellows program provides highly qualified, young professionals from Asia with an unparalleled opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills and gain in-depth knowledge of Asia's critical development challenges. The prestigious, year-long career advancement program draws on The Asia Foundation's extensive 18-country network and deep expertise working with innovative leaders and communities across the region.



EMERGING LEADERSHIP FOR ASIA'S FUTURE

In these times of rapid change and extraordinary development challenges throughout Asia, the need for creative, inspired, and transformative leadership has never been more imperative. To address this need, The Asia Foundation has created the Asia Foundation Development Fellows program, an initiative designed to identify, nurture, and support dedicated next-generation leaders across Asia. The program aims to strengthen and enhance the ability of carefully selected leaders and changemakers to advance Asia's social, economic, and political development through forward-looking initiatives and policy reforms.

Leveraging The Asia Foundation's rich 65-year history of development experience, the Asia Foundation Development Fellows program targets and invests in an extraordinary body of young and emerging Asian professionals – NGO and civil society leaders, government officials and policymakers, social entrepreneurs, journalists, environmentalists, and academics. The various components of the program create a nexus of disciplines, working environments, professional experiences, cultures, and country contexts through which development practitioners and professionals can build practical skills and enhance leadership capabilities while deepening bonds of regional and international perspective, understanding, and commitment.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Asia Foundation Development Fellows program is a multifaceted experience enhancing leadership skills, Asian development knowledge, professional networks, and international exposure for young Asian professionals. The program also provides the flexibility for Fellows to customize their own professional development component and to stay in their current occupations while participating in the program's rigorous modules. The program is comprised of the following four components:

1. Leadership Dialogue and Exchange program in Asia (2 weeks);
2. Leadership Dialogue and Exchange in the U.S. (2 weeks);
3. Professional Development Award of US\$5,000; and
4. Mentorship, formally allowing Fellows to tap into The Asia Foundation's extensive human resources and thematic expertise.

The application period starts in the fall of each year. A selection committee, comprised of distinguished specialists, then makes their final decision at the end of the year.

DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS ARE:

Thoughtful, committed, respected, and inspirational young leaders within their professional fields and within their larger community.

Under 40 years old.

Citizens or nationals of the following countries where The Asia Foundation has programs:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Cambodia
China
India
Indonesia
Japan
Korea
Laos
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Vietnam



LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE, PART I Laos | March 21-April 2, 2020

The Leadership Dialogue and Exchange program in Asia includes leadership training modules - involving intensive coursework in a retreat setting to facilitate deep learning - and an Asian Development study tour program involving leading development practitioners and thinkers, recognized policy leaders, and local innovators who will help Fellows explore approaches that deliver positive impact and advance development knowledge. With the larger objective of enhancing leadership skills and potential, the leadership training modules focus on strategic thinking and decision-making, working with participants on developing critical perspectives, solving complicated problems, managing change, and introducing innovative approaches in leadership and management, all through sessions facilitated by leading experts in the field. In previous years, the program has taken place in the Philippines, Nepal, Mongolia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore and Korea where local needs and challenges served as a contextual backdrop for exploring theories of change and practice in international development.



FORUM ON LEADERSHIP FOR ASIA'S FUTURE Singapore | April 3-5, 2020

The 2020 Forum on Leadership for Asia's Future: At the Frontlines of Change presents an invaluable opportunity to gather alumni of the seven current and former cohorts of Asia Foundation Development Fellows and other young and inspirational changemakers from across Asia to discuss shared development challenges, build and deepen networks of support, promote knowledge sharing, recognize achievements, and highlight creative avenues for innovation and collaboration.



LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE, PART II United States | September 12-26, 2020

Asia Foundation Development Fellows will take part in a leadership dialogue and exchange program in the United States, providing important opportunities to extend personal bonds with their cohort, as well as building new international perspectives and networks of support and inspiration. Over a two-week period, the Fellows will take part in a comprehensive series of programs, policy discussions, and unique learning and leadership development opportunities organized in and around San Francisco, and Washington, DC



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.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

An award of up to \$5,000 will be made available to each of the selected Asia Foundation Development Fellows. This cash award will allow each Fellow the opportunity to design and shape individualized plans to further their leadership skills and relevant professional experience in areas of particular importance to their career growth and potential. Each Fellow will be asked to develop a personalized, year-long work plan that may involve specialized training programs or short courses, language study, travel to attend key regional forums or workshops, or engagement in a series of other enrichment activities to further their leadership and professional capabilities.

MENTORING & NETWORK BUILDING

Building on the strength and local capacity of The Asia Foundation, the Asia Foundation Development Fellows program offers a mentoring component that is tailored around the particular background and professional interests of the Development Fellows. Fellows will also become part of an active and engaged alumni network, supported by the biennial Forum on Leadership for Asia's Future. All current and former fellows are invited to discuss development challenges, build and deepen networks of support, promote knowledge sharing, recognize achievements, and highlight creative avenues for innovation and collaboration.



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TO APPLY FOR OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ASIA FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM, VISIT:

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