



**The Asia Foundation wishes you Happy Holidays,
and health in the new year!**

Amid unprecedented challenges and uncertainty in 2020, The Asia Foundation has pivoted to address the pressing needs of the communities it serves. As we transition into 2021, The Foundation remains steadfastly committed to its mission to improve lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Thank you for your continued support.

Please find a review of The Foundation's notable programming in 2020 and a glimpse of what is to come in 2021.

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EVENTS

Upcoming Virtual Event – Problems and Urgent Issues in U.S. - Southeast Asia Relations for 2021

DATE COMING SOON - The Asia Foundation's [International Relations Program](#) assembled an independent Task Force to examine the state of U.S. – Southeast Asia Relations. The resulting report, *Problems and Urgent Issues in U.S. – Southeast Asia Relations for 2021*, has been shared with the incoming Biden administration transition team and will be made available to the public and discussed in a virtual event in January 2021.

Recent Virtual Event – Afghanistan Flash Surveys on Perceptions of Peace, Covid-19, and the Economy

Tuesday, December 10, 2020

#AfghanSurvey

Featuring:

Abdullah Ahmadzai
Afghanistan Country Representative, The Asia Foundation

Tabasum Akseer
Director, Policy and Research, The Asia Foundation Afghanistan Office

Ambassador Daniel Feldman
Former Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP), U.S. Department of State; The Asia Foundation Trustee; Senior of Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP

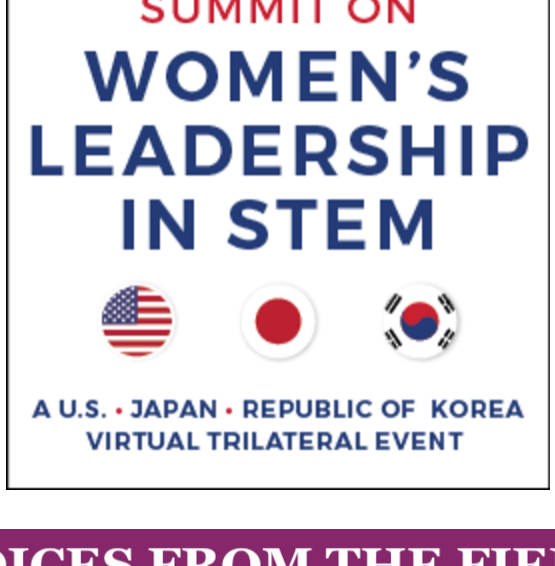
Moderated by:

Scott Worden
Director, Afghanistan and Central Asia Programs, United States Institute of Peace

DECEMBER 10, 2020 - The Foundation hosted an in-depth discussion of the first wave of the [Afghanistan Flash Surveys 2020](#). Study authors shared methodology and analysis of the first wave of the survey, followed by a panel discussion. Click [here](#) for details and to read the first-wave report.

Featured Virtual Event - Summit on Women's Leadership in STEM

OCTOBER 19 - 22, 2020 - In partnership with the U.S. Department of State, The Foundation convened the trilateral event with Japan and the Republic of Korea to exchange good practices in developing and sustaining future generations of women leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Visit the Summit [website](#) to view session recordings.



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

2020 Program Highlights

- [Pakistan: Mainstreaming Alternative Dispute Resolution for Equitable Access](#)
- This series of webinars promotes mediation as an effective mechanism of conflict resolution to facilitate broad-based access to equitable justice, particularly for vulnerable communities.
- [Go Digital ASEAN: Expanding Opportunity for Marginalized Communities](#)
- [Go Digital ASEAN](#) equips micro and small enterprises and underemployed youth, particularly those from marginalized communities with critical digital tools and skills to expand economic opportunity and mitigate negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Read about Go Digital ASEAN's impact in [Brunei](#), [Myanmar](#), and other [ASEAN member states](#).

2020 Covid-19 Program Response

As Covid-19 spread, The Asia Foundation refocused its work to respond to pressing needs across Asia. Programming includes:

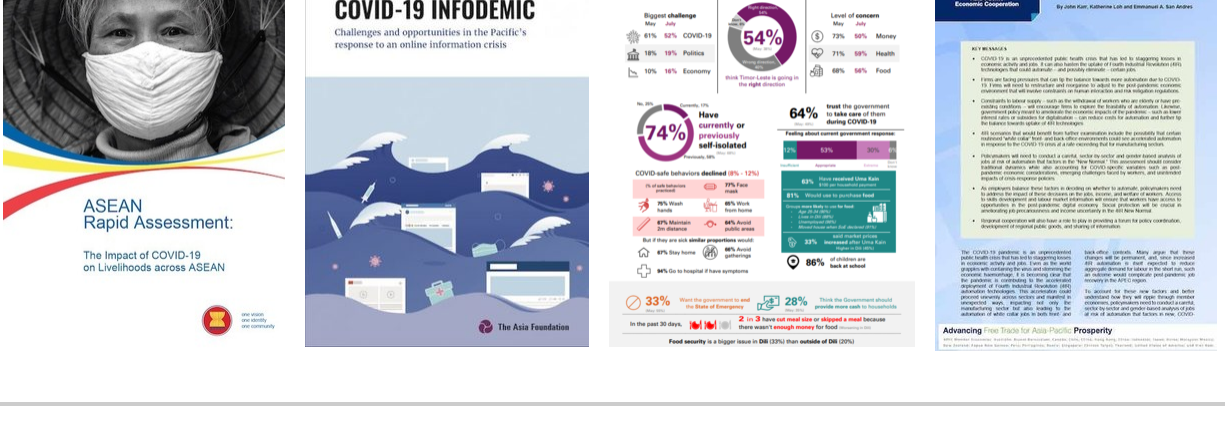


- The [Lotus Rapid Response Fund](#), a [Women's Empowerment Program](#) initiative that addresses urgent needs with flexible funds. The program has supported 21 critical projects in 14 countries so far and is planning another round of funding.
- The [Resiliency Initiative](#) provides social media training to civil society groups across Asia to counter discrimination and misinformation.
- [Let's Read at Home](#) and timely children's resources such as [COVIBOOK](#) and [My Hero is You: How Kids Can Fight COVID-19!](#)
- Efforts to confront the rise of [gender-based violence](#) through both prevention and response.
- A [virtual workshop](#) for the Mongolian Parliament on operating a virtual parliament.
- [#VentureWithHer](#) Entrepreneur Scale-Up Program in [Malaysia](#).

2020 Thought Leadership

This year, the Foundation produced vital reports that are shaping understandings of and responses to the pandemic. Notable [publications](#) include:

- [ASEAN Rapid Assessment: The Impact of Covid-19 on Livelihoods across ASEAN](#)
- [The Pacific Covid-19 Infodemic](#)
- Surveys of public perception in [Afghanistan](#), [Timor-Leste](#), and [Bangladesh](#)
- [COVID-19, AIR, and the Future of Work](#)



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 work across the region addresses five overarching goals—strengthen governance, empower women, expand economic opportunity, increase environmental resilience, and promote regional cooperation.

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