



IMPROVING LIVES EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES



The Asia Foundation

Overview

- 2-3 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT
- 3 OUR VALUES

Improving Lives

- 4-5 THAILAND
- 6 CAMBODIA
- 7 CHINA
- 8 MONGOLIA
- 9 PAKISTAN
- 10 TIMOR-LESTE
- 11 LUCE SCHOLARS

Expanding Opportunities

- 12-13 LAOS
- 14 BANGLADESH
- 15 MALAYSIA
- 16 BOOKS FOR ASIA
- 17 EXCHANGES
- 18 LOTUS CIRCLE
- 19 WASHINGTON, DC

Helping Societies Flourish

- 20-21 INDIA
- 22 AFGHANISTAN
- 23 BURMA/MYANMAR
- 24 INDONESIA
- 25 KOREA
- 26 NEPAL
- 27 PHILIPPINES
- 28 SRI LANKA
- 29 VIETNAM

Reports

- 30 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
- 31-33 DONORS
- 34-36 LEADERSHIP
- 37 MAP AND CREDITS
- 38 CONTACT US





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.

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Message from the Chairman of the Board and President

Water shortages and global climate change; long-running sub-national conflicts; human trafficking and gender-based violence; persistent poverty and widening income gaps; weak legal systems and ineffective governance institutions—these are among the critical issues The Asia Foundation is helping to tackle in the 21st century. In fact, The Asia Foundation's mission, which we refreshed in 2012, has never been in sharper focus: to improve lives, expand opportunities, and help societies flourish across a dynamic and developing Asia.

On the following pages, you'll read about our concrete and significant accomplishments. These include:

IMPROVING LIVES

We are preventing domestic violence and trafficking of women in Nepal; supporting the human rights of victims of torture in Pakistan; assisting artisanal miners in Mongolia to find safer means of livelihood; and we established the very first women's legal aid organization in Timor-Leste. The Asia Foundation improves lives by improving personal safety, security, and equality for all Asians, regardless of religion, ethnicity, and gender.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

We train and support women parliamentarians in South Asia; provide scholarships for female students in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam; and we are steering Malaysia's local business growth to avoid the middle-income trap. This year alone, we delivered more than one million books to schoolchildren in Afghanistan. We expand opportunities by contributing to an Asia in which wealth is more widely shared and all are able to participate in economic, social, and political life.

HELPING SOCIETIES FLOURISH

In Nepal and Sri Lanka, we pioneered transformative community-based conflict resolution; in the Philippines, to end manipulated election results, we are scrubbing and validating voter lists; in China, we are building the capacity and commitment of lawyers, judges, and legal aid providers to implement administrative law reforms; in Burma/Myanmar we helped stock a contemporary reference library for the Parliament Secretariat. The Asia Foundation is helping societies flourish by encouraging public institutions and legal systems to be more responsive to people's needs.

In 2012, after six decades of international isolation and military rule, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein introduced remarkable political reforms. The Asia Foundation has a history in the country dating back to the 1950s, and we have proposed an ambitious program of support for the current reforms based on our successful assistance to virtually every Asian country that has undergone a democratic transition.

In September, we warmly welcomed Nobel Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to our San Francisco international headquarters, where she made her first public remarks to Bay Area political, civic, and business leaders since her release from detention. She reminded us all that: "it's not enough to help a country emerging from dictatorship into democracy. It has to be helped in such a way that the foundations of a democratic society would be strengthened—this means empowering the people."



Our vision is a peaceful, just, and thriving Asia in every sense. More than half of the world's people live in Asia; and global stability and security will be affected by the region's ability to govern effectively and grow sustainably.

On this page are the core values that define our character, conduct, and purpose. A peaceful, engaged Asia is paramount; and Asia continues to experience remarkable transformations. But as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi insisted: "Democratization must be beneficial to all. This is the challenge."



David D. Arnold
President



Michael H. Armacost
*Chairman of the Board and
Executive Committee*

These 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.



IMPROVING LIVES

Personal security and safety are necessary for people and communities to fully participate in all facets of life. Encouraging democracy, equal access to justice, protection of basic rights, and the space in which to express and share opinions improves lives. We promote inclusiveness and equality, regardless of religion, ethnicity, and gender.

THAILAND

Thailand has enjoyed a period of calm following the 2011 national election, yet the political tensions that shook the nation in May 2010 still simmer beneath the surface, and the latest re-eruption of the long-running sub-national conflict in the Deep South enters its ninth year with an escalation of violence. The challenges of achieving a national political settlement and resolving ethno-nationalist strife distract policymakers from the equally urgent tasks of securing Thailand's future economic growth trajectory and its place in an increasingly competitive Southeast Asian sub-region. In this charged environment of social and economic change, we support peaceful conflict resolution efforts in the Deep South; criminal justice reform; democratic institutions and processes; and citizen voice in environmental governance. We also promote Thailand's advancement from middle-income status, its regional economic competitiveness, and its emergence as a nontraditional Asian donor.

Addressing escalating conflict in the Deep South

Creating political space for dialogue and local solutions

Conflict in Thailand's southern border provinces has persisted for over a century, with recurring cycles of violence. The present phase of violence since 2004 further escalated in 2012, with an increase in shooting deaths, bomb attacks on civilian populations, and other acts of violence that have affected the security and well-being of Malay-Muslim and Thai-Buddhist communities of the Deep South. The Malay-Muslim majority population has long resented the failure of the Thai State to recognize its unique cultural identity, to grant it some limited form of autonomy, and to break the impunity with which security forces operate. The Foundation's comprehensive southern conflict program addresses underlying issues that exacerbate the conflict, with a focus on strength-

ening the formal justice system and protecting human rights; promoting local cultural identity, history, and language; facilitating citizen voice in the peace process; and conducting empirical research to better understand the conflict and potential solutions. Last year, we contributed to an acknowledgement on the part of the government that local communities have a legitimate stake and role in the peace process, and launched a local grassroots network that successfully mobilized communities to articulate grievances and pursue local solutions to problems—including education policy, security, access to justice, and drug abuse among the youth population—through a “deliberative dialogue” process.

GRASSROOTS PEACE INITIATIVE NETWORK



84 COMMUNITY-LEVEL FORUMS INCLUDED 3,000 LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

DEEP SOUTH PUBLIC PERCEPTION SURVEY



BELIEVE POLITICAL DECENTRALIZATION OR LIMITED AUTONOMY MIGHT HELP SOLVE THE CONFLICT



BELIEVE TEACHING BOTH THAI AND PATTANI-MALAY LANGUAGES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WOULD BE POSITIVE

FORMAL DECLARATION ADOPTED MAY 20, 2012

"We the people of the southernmost provinces have a strong will to take part in ending this sub-national conflict and beg all societal sectors to sincerely support local initiatives..."

THIS LOCAL INITIATIVE IS A CRUCIAL FIRST STEP ALONG THE PATHWAY TO PEACE



In an increasingly narrow operating environment for civil society, the people and natural resources of Cambodia are being put at greater risk of exploitation. The violation of basic rights—including freedom of the press; freedom of assembly, association, and expression; and the right to a fair trial—are persistent threats to the country’s further democratic development. Despite this, our Cambodian partners play a vital role in monitoring, investigating, and reporting violations of these rights, like illegal land expropriation, and in advocating for justice and protection.

Homes and lives destroyed in Phnom Penh

Fighting for basic human rights

A lucrative real estate deal—a planned hotel, business offices, and luxury apartments—has transformed Boeung Kak from the largest lake in Phnom Penh to sand and land fill. Four thousand families were forcibly evicted, their homes and close-knit villages destroyed. Last spring, 13 mothers and grandmothers were sentenced to prison terms for protesting at the development site; the international news media reported on their violent arrests and convictions. Our partner, the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO), has been at the forefront of civil, social, and political advocacy

and government monitoring since the early 1990s and was instrumental in defending, at every step, the rights of the “Boeung Kak 13.” (The women were eventually freed.) Evictions and land expropriations in Cambodia often violate basic human rights, yet such cases tend to go unresolved; millions of acres have been developed with limited regulation and legal oversight, at risk of ruining families, small communities, and fouling once vibrant ecosystems. We are actively training and strengthening the advocacy networks of local groups fighting for land reform that is pathbreaking and permanent.

New law reforms and legal processes

Helping citizens influence their future

In the past 20 years, China has undertaken a series of administrative law reforms to make it easier for the public to be heard and influence their future. To support these efforts, we are partnering with prominent Chinese law schools to foster a new generation of legal professionals committed to the ideals of participation, transparency, government compliance, and public interest law. We are also working with law schools and government partners to support clear legal processes for citizens seeking redress for illegal

government actions. This year, we have helped to build the capacity and commitment of over 1,200 government officials and staff, judges, and legal aid practitioners to implement the administrative reforms, and to better provide redress to citizens. We are providing legal aid to enable citizens to better understand and take advantage of their new, codified rights. In 2012, our partners handled nearly 200 cases related to administrative reconsideration, administrative litigation, and state compensation.



China's dynamic economic transformation presents challenges for the country's rapidly changing society and for the government. We support efforts in law and governance, environmental protection, women's empowerment, disaster management, and constructive U.S.-China relations.



MONGOLIA

Mongolia is booming, continuing its rapid transformation as a young democracy and lower middle-income country, with growth trajectories this year again showing it will be one of the world's fastest growing economies. Ensuring inclusive sustainable growth, avoiding the resource curse, and reducing poverty and corruption are significant challenges. For 20 years our office in Ulaanbaatar has been supporting national governance reform, services for the poor, citizen participation, environmental conservation, and women's empowerment.

Responsible artisanal mining

Pioneering environmental rehabilitation

The minerals sector is fueling unprecedented economic growth. And while there is a significant focus given to the formal mining sector, the informal mining sector dominated by small and artisanal miners is estimated to contribute \$110 million annually to export revenues. Given the large-scale investments that well-resourced mining companies are able to make on environmental rehabilitation efforts, there are a number of excellent examples in Mongolia of best practices in environmental reclamation and rehabilitation efforts. However, in local areas, examples of successful environmental reclamation areas with small and artisanal mining in Mongolia are often less known. One example is in Lam Tolgoi, a site in Mongolia where with limited resources and strong involvement of artisanal miners themselves environmental degradation has been successfully tackled. In collaboration with a local

partner, and with support of the local government and several formal mining companies, a model land reclamation project was launched on two hectares of abandoned artisanal mine sites. A total of 45 artisanal miners worked to undertake technical and biological reclamation during the year-long project. Two hectares of reclamation field were fenced, 3,100 holes were filled in with soil materials, and 150 cubic meters of fertile top soil was transported from agricultural and road construction companies to prepare it for vegetation. Tree types of perennial plants were seeded and 100 tree seedlings were planted on the site as part of biological reclamation. The Uyanga *soum* reclamation project has set a standard as the current best practice in environmental rehabilitation in Mongolia of small-scale mining and participation of artisanal miners.

Pakistan's bold steps to address human rights

Expanding civil society's capacity to defend rights

This year the Foundation embarked upon a second phase of the Human Rights Fund to enhance civil society's capacity to promote human rights in three key areas: the rights of religious minorities; freedom from torture and other rights relating to prisoners; and economic rights of women and other marginalized groups. Our office in Islamabad is supporting seven civil society partners in all three objectives. Specific projects include legal and remedial support to tortured or vulnerable prisoners in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

two economic empowerment initiatives for women in Punjab, and an intensive sensitization program on minority rights in Balochistan and Sindh. Going forward, the Human Rights Fund will expand to increase the protection and promotion of rights of expression, assembly, association, and thought, including religious freedoms, by setting up an early warning system and a network of rights defenders in 10 of the most vulnerable districts of the country.



The Asia Foundation continues to build capacity of our local partners. Our efforts are focused on bridging the gap between citizens and their government, fostering human rights and social inclusion, especially for women; and building the capacity of Pakistani institutions to meet local and national development needs.

PAKISTAN

A newly democratic, natural resource-rich nation, Timor-Leste's development dreams are at risk of being interrupted by corruption, largesse, and inefficiency in its young institutions. It is these very institutions, abiding by and upholding the rule of law, that are needed to turn the heavily oil-dependent country's petro-dollars into long-term, broad-based economic growth for the benefit of all, rather than a few powerful elites in the short term. Strengthening the capabilities of these institutions, and citizens' understanding of them, is a key focus of our staff in Dili, as well as on conflict management and women's empowerment.



Domestic violence against women still widespread

Concrete achievements and breakthroughs to protect victims

We have just concluded a successful decade-long legal aid program that significantly strengthens the local justice sector and fosters improved access to justice for Timorese, especially women. Still, domestic violence persists in this fragile democracy, requiring fresh, original thinking. To that end, our goal is to ensure access to justice for women and to link legal aid partners with gender-based violence networks. We supported the provision of legal assistance for 536 legal and paralegal cases, and connected an additional 576 cases with paralegal programs of our local partners; most of these cases were women. The Foundation provided eight legal aid lawyers with scholarships to undertake related

training, established the very first women's legal aid organization in Timor-Leste, and published groundbreaking research on women's legal needs. Our findings revealed a multitude of interlocking issues women experience when attempting to access assistance in Timor-Leste, including: a preference for resolving issues locally, even against the victims' wishes; uneven responsiveness of the police; lengthy court processes; and the lack of social support structures if a woman chooses to leave a violent relationship. The findings provided crucial insights for policy-makers and others working in the areas of service provision, policy formation, and legislative frameworks.

A young scholar's belief in free speech and civic engagement

Last year, 2012-2013 Luce Scholar Perla E. Parra De Anda worked in Thailand with the Human Rights and Development Foundation, a local organization that promotes and protects labor rights, human rights, and democracy. Based in the northern province of Chiang Mai, she led trainings and workshops for local immigrant communities, presented grassroots mobilization strategies, assisted with judicial advocacy, and filed labor violation complaints on behalf of migrant workers.

She also managed “know your rights” outreach to migrants, worked with her Shan-Burmese colleagues to produce and distribute educational booklets with information about current laws and policies, and started a project to teach basic literacy skills and English to Shan-Burmese immigrants. As both an “immigrant and citizen” of the United States, as Perla puts it, she recognizes the value of free speech and civic engagement to effect social change.



LUCE SCHOLARS



Since its launch in 1974, The Asia Foundation has administered in Asia the signature program of the Henry Luce Foundation: the Luce Scholars program. The heart and strength of the year-long program continues to lie in the personalized organizational placements in Asia arranged by The Asia Foundation for each Scholar on the basis of their individual career interests and experience. These range from working with the Global Environmental Institute in Beijing on market-based solutions for environmental problems to enable economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable development, to working with the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation to facilitate the rehabilitation of delinquent youth in the Philippines, to advocating for a meaningful truth and reconciliation process for past human rights abuses at the Commission for Disappeared and Victims of Violence in Jakarta. The range of organizations that host Luce Scholars reflects the extraordinary dynamism and rich diversity of Asia, and is as broad as the scope of talents and interests of the Scholars themselves. The Luce Scholars program remains unique among exchanges in that it is intended for young American leaders who have had limited experience of Asia and who might not otherwise have an opportunity in the course of their careers to come to know Asia. Many have gone on to demonstrate extraordinary leadership in their personal and professional careers.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

A thriving Asia is one in which opportunity is shared and balanced, and all are encouraged to participate in economic, social, and political life. Entrepreneurs make up the vast majority of all enterprises in Asia, but red tape, corruption, and financial and social barriers make it difficult to do business, especially for women and the marginalized. A supportive business environment, and an inclusive political and social system that engages all are essential to sustained development and growth.



Encouraging women to lead

Building skills and confidence in Laos

Men and women enjoy equal rights in Laos, yet in many ways the culture remains patriarchal. Especially in rural areas, girls are burdened with most domestic tasks, and are significantly less likely to attend school. Loans for a small business are difficult to come by for women, and although women are represented in government, it is usually men who speak up and make key decisions. In response, our local office is working with women from village councils to national government, and all areas in between, to build leadership and decision-making skills. For example, we supported the Lao Businesswomen's Association, part of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to host a leadership and networking workshop for 50 Lao businesswomen. The businesses repre-

sented were wide-ranging, from wood furniture and handicrafts producers to restaurants, hotels, and a mulberry tree plantation. We also supported leadership workshops hosted by the Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women and the Lao Women's Union, and we continued a three-year program for women leaders conducted by the Gender Development Association focused on the importance of women officials at the village level. In total, this year 267 women from business, government, civil society, and education were trained. Additionally, we were able to support 50 young women from 13 different provinces with full four-year scholarships at the National University of Laos.



THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF LAOS IS HELD BY A WOMAN, H.E. MRS. PANY YATHOTOU

LAOS

Laos became a full member of the World Trade Organization this year, a solid indicator of the nation's growing engagement in the global economy. Our office in Vientiane encourages effective and responsive governance and legal systems; reductions in the negative impacts of development on the environment; expanding access to information and international engagement; and protecting women's rights and well-being.



Bangladesh has a vibrant cultural history and is rich with diversity. But poor governance makes it impossible for the country to fully utilize the talent and abilities of its people. A focus of our office in Bangladesh includes close work with parliamentarians, civil society, and other stakeholders to improve legislative and electoral governance in the country. Our staff also works to promote and empower women within an Islamic framework.

Gender power still unequal in political arenas

A landmark meeting calls for greater role for women

Around the world, women politicians are outnumbered four to one. Without power to make decisions regarding their own lives, women are trapped in societies where they are often subordinate and confined to outdated ideas. South Asian countries have begun legislative reforms and undertaken affirmative action, from the grassroots to the national level. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan, for example, now have constitutional quotas in their national parliaments. But the quota system is only a temporary measure—other steps are needed. Last July, with USAID and UKaid, our Bangladesh office brought together more than 100 women members of South Asian parliaments to debate

how to strengthen women's political participation and encourage truly democratic and representative governments. During the meeting, a new network was formed to provide opportunities for exchange and to serve as a regional coordination center for activities supporting women in parliament. This network will enable women leaders to leverage their voices and influence in ways not possible when working alone. As of this writing, the Election Commission in Bangladesh has imposed a 33 percent quota for women at all levels of the political party structures by 2020; but women here must continue to work within the structures of patriarchy to ultimately create a gender balance.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia is actively engaged in economic and political reform to achieve high-income nation status by 2020. We are strengthening the business environment, providing opportunities for underprivileged girls, improving security in vulnerable regions, bolstering Malaysia's international development cooperation, enhancing the country's electoral integrity and public accountability, and engaging young Malaysians on politics, current issues, and civic and social involvement.



Investment in avoiding the “middle-income trap”

New Index to help steer Malaysia's local business growth

Real GDP growth in Malaysia has slowed over the past decade, and domestic investment, measured as a percentage of GDP, has also decreased. These trends raise doubts about whether Malaysia can attain its goal of reaching developed nation status by 2020. In 2010, the Malaysian government launched plans to develop small- and medium-sized enterprises as powerful engines of growth. In 2012, The Asia Foundation, along with Monash University and RAM Holdings, conducted Malaysia's first-ever Business Environment Index (BEI), a tool that ranks the performance of 11 districts and municipalities across six states using indicators such as entry and regulatory costs, informal charges, crime and security, and land

access—all critical to a healthy business environment. (The Foundation employs similar tools in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Bangladesh.) We surveyed 635 business owners face-to-face, and the BEI reveals that entry and regulatory costs are well-managed across the areas surveyed, but that improvements can be made in infrastructure. Crime and security, informal charges, and transparency registered as the areas of most concern to these small- and medium-sized business owners. As part of our broad goal to help achieve inclusive economic development, we are currently planning the next round of the survey, which will be expanded nationwide.

Record year of connecting students and leaders with knowledge

Over one million storybooks help educate Afghanistan's next generation

In Afghanistan, we delivered a record 1,262,057 books and educational materials to 752 institutions in all of the country's 34 provinces. Due to a special donation by Hoopoe Books, these included over a million Dari, Pashto, and English storybooks and nearly 36,000 teacher guides. In a country where very few children's books are produced domestically, and adult literacy is 39 percent, these engaging, colorfully illustrated books fill a crucial need in the education of Afghanistan's next generation and provide a powerful antidote to violence and extremism.

Transporting books to the country's distant and geographically divided provinces is an odyssey and an achievement. In Kabul, containers of books are sorted, boxed, labeled, and put into cramped luggage areas of long-distance passenger buses. Bus trips to Afghanistan's distant provinces, such as Badghis in the northwest, often require a second, or third, bus transfer to reach smaller towns and villages desperate for these resources. This requires strong local partnerships and a multitude of committed individuals to ensure smooth delivery to institutions in need.

A photograph showing a group of children in Afghanistan, some wearing traditional headwear like a white cap, looking intently at colorful storybooks. The books have vibrant illustrations of landscapes and characters. The children are gathered around a table, and the scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor setting.

BOOKS FOR ASIA

One of our best-known and most-beloved programs, Books for Asia is the leading provider of donated information resources to 19 countries in the region. We connect students, educators, and local and national leaders with the knowledge they need to thrive. Our book donations and digital projects help enhance English-language skills, sharpen vocational and research skills, build knowledge in the business, legal, and science professions, and infuse children with an early love of reading that is critical to literacy.

EXCHANGES

Through our Asian American Exchanges, we seek to encourage a deeper understanding between Asians and Americans and contribute to stronger U.S.-Asia relations. Our grants have provided thousands of pathbreaking leaders with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to exchange views and gain direct experience with regions other than their own.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed is recipient of Chang-Lin Tien Fellowship

Our Chang-Lin Tien Distinguished Fellowship Program was created to foster exchanges for prominent leaders to meet and interact with counterparts in Asia and the U.S. The fellowship honors the late Dr. Chang-Lin Tien, former Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, and chair of our Board of Trustees, for his many accomplishments in science, higher education, and community affairs. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the founder and chairperson of BRAC, was last year's recipient. He left a successful career in the corporate sector to establish BRAC (formerly Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) to focus on poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor. Under his visionary leadership, BRAC has become the largest development NGO in the world. Knighted for his efforts to reduce poverty, he is a recipient of numerous honors. His fellowship experience featured public presentations in Washington, DC and San Francisco, where he exposed new and influential audiences to his cutting-edge ideas on development as a means to prosperity and security in South Asia, and emphasized the importance of the role of NGOs.



The Lotus Circle is a community of philanthropists committed to transforming the lives of women and girls across Asia through our Women's Empowerment Program. The annual Lotus Leadership Awards Luncheon raises critical funds for the program and brings together New York City's most prominent philanthropists, diplomats, business leaders, young professionals, and media.

LOTUS CIRCLE

National Geographic Society honored in New York City

The Asia Foundation and The Lotus Circle improving life for women and girls

The second annual Lotus Leadership Awards honored our decade-long partnership with The National Geographic Society to improve the lives of girls in Afghanistan through education and large-scale refurbishing of heavily damaged schools, including the Rabia-e-Balkhi Girls' High School and the Lama-e-Shaheed Girls' High School. The partnership began in 2002 after photographer Steve McCurry rediscovered Sharbat Gula, the "girl with the green eyes" he had once photographed for an iconic National Geographic cover. Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, founder of the Afghan

Institute of Learning, also received a Lotus Leadership Award for her contributions to the education and health of Afghan women and children; she launched the first learning centers inside refugee camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and risked her life to run illegal schools for girls during the Taliban reign. The Asia Foundation and National Geographic Society presented Dr. Yacoobi and the Afghan Institute of Learning with a grant to continue her groundbreaking work bringing health services and education to Afghan women and girls.

WASHINGTON, DC

Our Washington, DC office organizes substantive dialogues with key audiences on policy issues facing the Asia-Pacific. Roundtables, forums, lectures, and dialogues provide policymakers, nongovernmental leaders, journalists, and scholars with unique opportunities to hear contemporary views from Asia and to explore issues of significance.



Distinguished Senator Richard Lugar honored

As part of our Ellsworth Bunker Asian Ambassadors Dinner Series, and together with Indonesia Ambassador to the United States Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, this year we honored the Honorable Richard Lugar, Senator and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the Embassy of Indonesia. Senator Lugar has been one of the most prominent and crucial voices on foreign policy issues for decades in the Senate and is a long-time supporter of The Asia Foundation, and of development and democracy in Asia. The series, named in honor of accomplished statesman Ellsworth Bunker (1894-1984), who served as Ambassador to India, Nepal, and Vietnam, among other posts during his long diplomatic career, creates a venue for the Asian diplomatic and policy communities to explore issues of significance in U.S.-Asia policy in candid settings. A recent dinner honored Madame Sadako Ogata, former president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. In 2012 we hosted many dialogues and events, including: roundtables focused on Southeast Asia; panels on women's role in Asia and on Afghanistan's transition; and a book launch on economic policy reform in the Philippines.

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forest. The river is light brown and turbulent, contrasting with the vibrant green of the surrounding trees. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down at the river as it flows through the valley.

HELPING SOCIETIES FLOURISH

A flourishing society is one in which institutions of law and justice are effective and transparent, and citizens have a voice and a vote; a healthy environment, basic public services, and the leaders responsible for those services are responsive and ethical.

INDIA

India is playing an increasingly active international role on the world stage. Long a recipient of donor funds, it is now a significant provider of development assistance. Yet the prospects for India as a rising power also depend upon how the country addresses domestic challenges and relations with its neighbors in the region. Our New Delhi office supports local initiatives to promote open, accountable, and inclusive governance, and to facilitate India's positive engagement in regional and global affairs.

THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES IN SOUTH ASIA RELY ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER FLOWS TO MEET THEIR DOMESTIC WATER NEEDS



THE TRANSBOUNDARY BASIN OF THE TEESTA RIVER COVERS 12,159 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF WHICH 10,155 ARE IN INDIA AND 2,004 IN BANGLADESH

SOUTH ASIA IS ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED REGIONS OF THE WORLD AND ALSO ONE OF THE MOST WATER SCARCE

21%

WORLD'S POPULATION



8.3%

WORLD'S WATER RESOURCES

Managing South Asia's scarce water resources

Promoting cooperation on transboundary water governance

South Asia is home to three of the most densely populated river basins in the world—the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra—which support an estimated 700 million people. The basins straddle national borders, linking water to complex geopolitical relations between countries in the region. As water scarcity intensifies, effective management of river basins is crucial to long-term peace, stability, and economic development in the region, which houses a third of the world's poor. With water part of larger ecological concerns, we see the need for greater cooperation and broad-based deliberation on transboundary water governance to help ensure that water scarcity and

related conflict do not negatively affect the region's future. In 2012, in partnership with local organizations in India and Bangladesh, and supported by the Skoll Global Threats Fund, we conducted an analysis of the Teesta River Basin. We also supported a regional grouping of NGOs from India, Bangladesh, and Nepal to disseminate information on transboundary water agreements online. In addition, we supported a workshop on water governance within the Ganges basin in which 20 participants from India, Bangladesh, and Nepal committed to preparing a people's charter on water governance in South Asia.

Women's fragile gains at risk

Exposing traditional religious leaders to progressive scholars and perspectives

Our resident office in Kabul conducts the most comprehensive annual public opinion poll in the country, where we view our role as working on underlying conditions for the emergence of a more secure, peaceful Afghanistan. The most recent findings revealed a hopeful sign for improving women's gains here, which are fragile and at risk as the 2014 security transition nears. Confidence in religious and traditional leaders remains high at 74 percent, and religious leaders rank the highest in serving the interests of Afghan society. Given their level of credibility, religious leaders can effectively move public opinion on women's rights and expand the space for women's empowerment.

Last year, we organized exposure visits for 142 *imams* and traditional leaders from 22 of the country's 34 provinces to other countries with large Muslim populations, including India, Malaysia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. These visits with progressive scholars and activists are helping traditional leaders broaden their perspectives and instill a greater sense of tolerance. Upon their return, some Afghan participants are taking the initiative to establish research centers, women's *madrassas*, and even a new university, the National University established in Kabul in 2012.



We are working to build effective central and provincial government and supporting Afghan citizens to create a stable, prosperous society. We assist in the development of sub-national governance; strengthen key executive branch agencies; and support programs in civic education, women's empowerment, education, Islam and development, and free and fair elections.

AFGHANISTAN



We have a long history of work in Burma/Myanmar, dating back to the 1950s, and since 2007 we have donated more than 80,000 books valued at \$3.2 million. We are now in the process of re-opening our resident office to support the country's democratic transition and development. Our program will aim to strengthen institutions of democratic governance; enhance the country's foreign affairs capacities; support the management of sub-national conflict; support free, fair, and credible elections; expand access to information and informed public debate; and assist with economic reforms for broad-based growth and opportunities for all.

BURMA/MYANMAR

The Asia Foundation to re-establish a resident office

Promoting good governance and rule of law reforms

The Foundation has worked with virtually every Asian country that has undergone a democratic transition, and we are well positioned to make an important contribution in Burma, also known as Myanmar. Last year we held nearly a dozen in-depth consultations with a wide range of political, academic, and civil society leaders here, including a special delegation to meet President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the Honorable U Thein Sein. At this meeting, President Thein Sein and Asia Foundation President David Arnold discussed assistance for the country's development and rule of law. Also during the

week-long visit, Mr. Arnold delivered a special collection of more than 600 volumes to the Myanmar Parliamentary Library. And at our San Francisco, California, headquarters, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Member of Parliament, and Chairperson and General Secretary of the National League of Democracy, made her first Bay Area public remarks after decades of detention. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke to an invitation-only audience of Bay Area political, civic, and business leaders following a private meeting with Mr. Arnold and our Board of Trustees.

Indonesia's democratic maturity tested

Shaping reforms in advance of 2014 national elections

Indonesia averages over 100 annual local elections and is preparing for important national legislative and presidential elections in 2014. While the last national elections, in 2009, were conducted without major disruption, they were fraught with problems, including inaccuracies in voter lists that disenfranchised millions, large numbers of invalid ballots and errors, and alleged fraud in the tabulation and reporting of results, including the buying and selling of fictitious and duplicate voter names. These problems were compounded by the low, and declining, levels of participation of local community and grassroots organizations in educating voters about electoral processes, and monitoring misconduct. To improve the integrity of elections, and in preparation for the 2014 elections, our Jakarta office last year launched a comprehensive program of voter education and

election observation that will complement the important work of the National Election Commission and Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body. Support of election observation in Indonesia's maturing democracy requires a different approach to those implemented in past elections: no longer is the focus on numbers of observers; the Foundation's program now aims to significantly improve the quality and timeliness of election observer reporting and support cost-effective and sustainable election observer organizations and tools, such as social media. In 2012, we supported the training of independent observers and journalists to promote peaceful elections in Aceh, as well as an integrated observation and education program for Jakarta's gubernatorial elections that targeted women and marginalized voters.



INDONESIA

Indonesia was recently ranked in the top 25 percent in the 2012 Open Budget Survey, which measures budget transparency, participation, and oversight in more than 100 countries around the world. Yet corruption, inequity, poverty, and decaying infrastructure are obstacles to Indonesia becoming fully open and thriving. Our programs strengthen the effectiveness of democratic institutions and legal and judicial systems, empower women's political participation, and support environmental governance.

KOREA

South Korea has undergone a dramatic transition in recent decades, developing into a powerhouse economy and robust democracy. Now, the country is poised to share the lessons of its own transformation from aid recipient to donor. Our office in Seoul works to strengthen the capacity of South Korean government agencies and NGOs, promotes international exchanges with North Korea, and facilitates regional cooperation in Northeast Asia.



Enhancing development effectiveness

Korea's role as a global development leader

Building on a successful collaboration between The Asia Foundation and Korea Development Institute (KDI), the Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation program in 2012 focused on “Pro-Poor Growth and Development Cooperation.” The dialogue articulated how development cooperation agencies are rethinking their approaches in the face of widening income disparities, how employment can be expanded, how to evaluate the impact of projects focused on inclusive growth, and how civil society can contribute to the pro-poor agenda. In 2013, KDI and The Asia Foundation are jointly focusing on green growth by holding conferences in Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Access to justice, particularly for the poor and marginalized, is one of Nepal's longstanding needs. With post-war political transitional efforts failing to chart a steady course forward and transitional justice processes yet to commence, programs on peacebuilding, alternate dispute resolution, and conflict management continue to meet the demand for justice at the local level. Compounded by poverty, inequality, and impunity, peace and stability in Nepal remain fragile. We are encouraging an effective political transition; grassroots conflict transformation; enhanced women's rights and security; accountable local governance; and broadened economic opportunity.

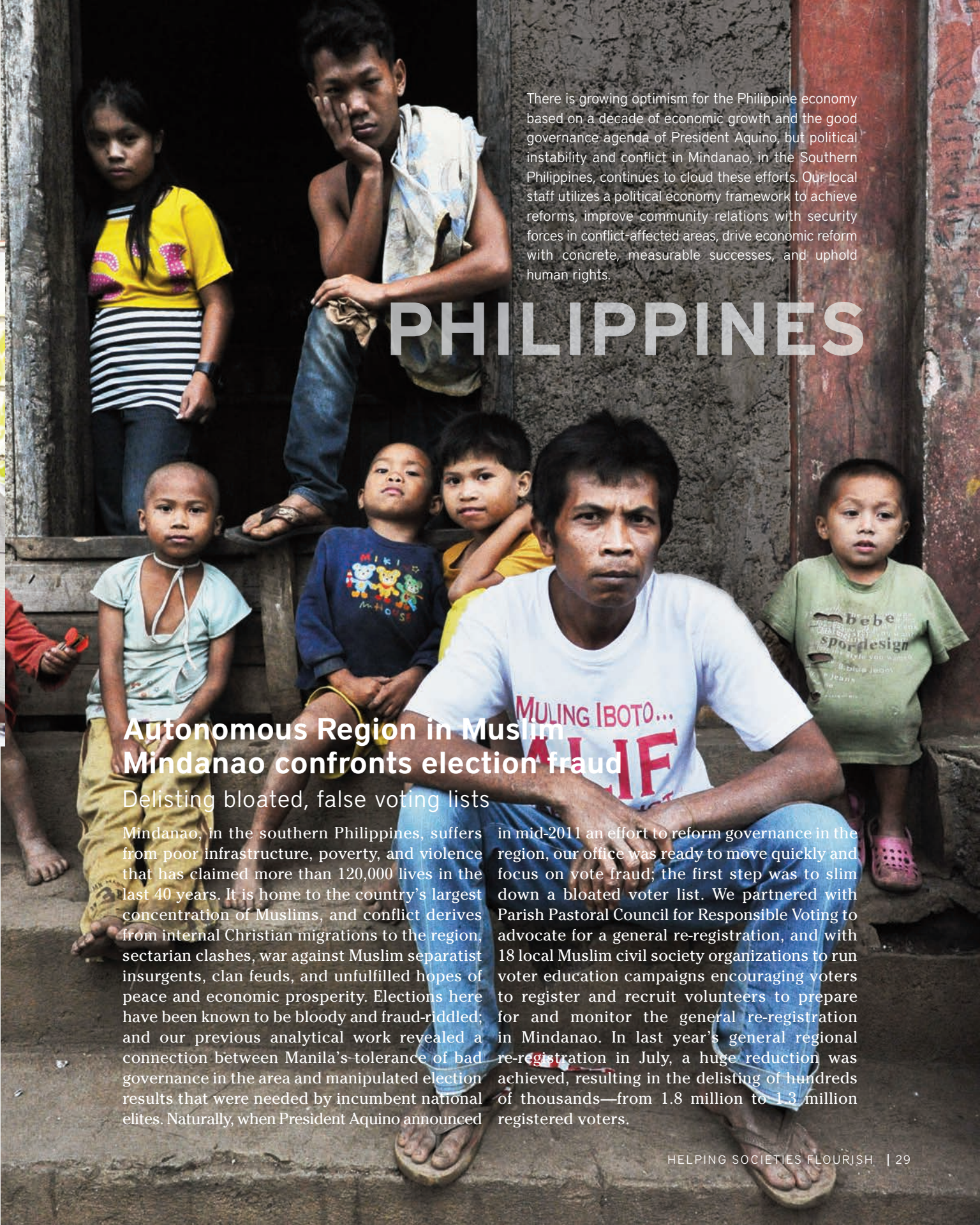


Deeply rooted sources of conflict could derail a fragile peace

Encouraging a culture where all perspectives are considered

Most rural areas in Nepal suffer from an absence of any form of justice provision and dispute resolution. As a result, disputes are common, frequently recur, and go unresolved. Even in areas where there is access to justice, the high frequency of cases means that pursuing justice becomes expensive. Unresolved disputes affect social harmony. Interest-based, facilitated mediation in Nepal, pioneered by The Asia Foundation since 2000, has provided a community-level arena for Nepalis to respond to and address the underlying causes of local conflicts. The community mediation program acts as a mechanism to overcome

obstacles causing social disharmony in areas that are remote, lack access to justice services, and suffer from high dispute rates. Mediation sessions transform long-held tensions among neighbors and families into cordial relationships based on equality, mutual respect, and participation; and disputants learn to respect other points of view. Last year, we expanded the program to 114 locations in 12 districts. For impact, we provided guidance to the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Supreme Court in developing mediation regulations, procedures, code of conduct, and other policy instruments required to implement the new Mediation Act.



There is growing optimism for the Philippine economy based on a decade of economic growth and the good governance agenda of President Aquino, but political instability and conflict in Mindanao, in the Southern Philippines, continues to cloud these efforts. Our local staff utilizes a political economy framework to achieve reforms, improve community relations with security forces in conflict-affected areas, drive economic reform with concrete, measurable successes, and uphold human rights.

PHILIPPINES

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao confronts election fraud

Delisting bloated, false voting lists

Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, suffers from poor infrastructure, poverty, and violence that has claimed more than 120,000 lives in the last 40 years. It is home to the country's largest concentration of Muslims, and conflict derives from internal Christian migrations to the region, sectarian clashes, war against Muslim separatist insurgents, clan feuds, and unfulfilled hopes of peace and economic prosperity. Elections here have been known to be bloody and fraud-riddled; and our previous analytical work revealed a connection between Manila's tolerance of bad governance in the area and manipulated election results that were needed by incumbent national elites. Naturally, when President Aquino announced

in mid-2011 an effort to reform governance in the region, our office was ready to move quickly and focus on vote fraud; the first step was to slim down a bloated voter list. We partnered with Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting to advocate for a general re-registration, and with 18 local Muslim civil society organizations to run voter education campaigns encouraging voters to register and recruit volunteers to prepare for and monitor the general re-registration in Mindanao. In last year's general regional re-registration in July, a huge reduction was achieved, resulting in the delisting of hundreds of thousands—from 1.8 million to 1.3 million registered voters.

A shift to community-oriented policing

Police and residents now coming together to prevent and solve crimes


Sri Lanka is seeing concrete signs that one of its deepest societal wounds, the relationship between the police and the community, is improving. During the war, residents, particularly in the North and East, were often treated as threats by police; and interaction between the public and the police was tense and tended to happen at police stations or vehicle checkpoints. But throughout this island nation there is a gradual shift from a “securitized” form of policing to a community-oriented one; we are a partner in this pathbreaking progress. Last year, our research revealed Sri Lankans want more engagement with the police, with an overwhelming

91 percent stating they want the police to work more closely with their community to address local safety issues. Using these findings as a departure, in 2012 we helped 27 police stations start regular community police forums—monthly meetings where residents, together with police, discuss safety, security, and ways to prevent and solve crimes. We launched these pioneering forums as pilots in 2010; now the police have introduced community policing practices in one in five police stations across the country. To strengthen the success of these forums, we supported the training of 379 police officers in community policing.

In any endeavor to rebuild a nation, a society’s safety, emotional well-being and ability to prosper is critical. In Sri Lanka, we are improving the enabling environment for local economic growth, strengthening the compact between state and society, building trust between citizens and their government, reducing conflict at the local level, and healing survivors of a quarter-century of civil war.

SRI LANKA





Vietnam is under pressure to maintain its competitive edge. Inflation, inefficient state-owned enterprises, a fragile banking sector, and land and environmental disputes have all become the focus of heated public debate this year. Our office is actively supporting reform efforts, strengthening communities, and enhancing state-society relations.

VIETNAM

Extreme weather and disasters cost businesses hundreds of millions

Disaster-proofing small and medium enterprises

Vietnam is rocked each year by eight to 10 extreme weather events and natural disasters; since 1990, disasters have cost the country an annual \$3.85 billion, or 1.3 percent of GDP. Community resilience depends greatly on the ability of the private sector to bounce back, re-establish production, and continue to provide employment to local workers in the aftermath of disasters—small- and medium-sized businesses employ around 80 percent of the country's workforce and produce more than 40 percent of its gross domestic product. But our surveys revealed business owners are ill-prepared and vulnerable. If the country is to maintain its stunning growth record, this sector must be equipped to deal with increasingly

frequent, more intense events. In response, we launched a first-of-its-kind program: more than 500 individuals from over 300 businesses in five coastal provinces participated in hands-on training to assess risk and potential losses, disaster-proof facilities, and prepare their staffs. In October 2012, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance presented The Asia Foundation with an award for "Excellence for Innovation and Learning in Disaster Risk Reduction," at its annual conference in Washington, DC. We now want the program to reach a greater number of Vietnam's estimated 400,000 small businesses and integrate preparedness principles into business associations and training centers.

2012 Financial Highlights

Management is responsible for the preparation of The Asia Foundation's financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the financial information presented in this report. This responsibility includes maintaining the integrity and objectivity of financial records, protection of Foundation assets, and compliance with funder restrictions and instructions.

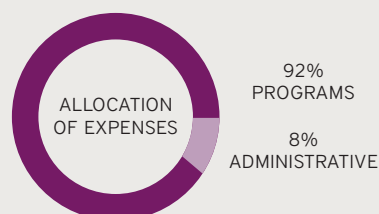
The Foundation's financial statements have been audited by Grant Thornton, LLP, independent certified public accountants. The independent auditor's report and the complete audited financial statements and accompanying footnotes are available by mail upon request.

THE ASIA FOUNDATION CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION (in thousands)

	FY12
REVENUE, SUPPORT, & INCOME	
Government: Bilateral & Multilateral Institutions*	107,134
Foundations, Corporations, & Individuals	5,765
Donated Books & Related Materials	35,695
Non-operating Income	1,468
	<u>150,062</u>

EXPENDITURES	
Programs, Grants, & Related Services	100,348
Distribution of Books & Materials	47,754
General Administration	12,889
Fundraising	384
Other Expense	25
	<u>161,400</u>

Change in Net Assets	(11,338)
Postretirement benefit change	—
Net Assets, beginning of year	<u>56,118</u>
Net Assets, end of year	<u>44,780</u>



*Australian Agency for International Development; Australian Labor Party International Secretariat (ALP); Australian Agency for International Development, Developmental Leadership Program; Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in Indonesia and Timor-Leste; Australian Federal Police; British Embassy, in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Vietnam; British High Commission, in Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka; Canadian International Development Agency; Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, San Francisco; Danish International Development Agency; Department for International Development, United Kingdom; European Commission; European Union; Government of Belgium; The Hague Forum for Judicial Expertise; Irish Aid; Japanese Embassy, in Timor-Leste; Japan International Cooperation Agency; Korea Development Institute; Korea International Cooperation Agency; Korean Embassy, in Timor-Leste; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Timor-Leste; Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Afghanistan and Indonesia; Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process in the Philippines; Royal Danish Embassy, in Indonesia; Royal Netherlands Embassy, in Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Thailand; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in Bangladesh and Mongolia; Swiss Embassy, in Nepal; United Nations Population Fund; United States Agency for International Development; United States Congress; United States Department of Labor; United States Department of State; United States Embassy, in Afghanistan, Korea, Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka; The World Bank

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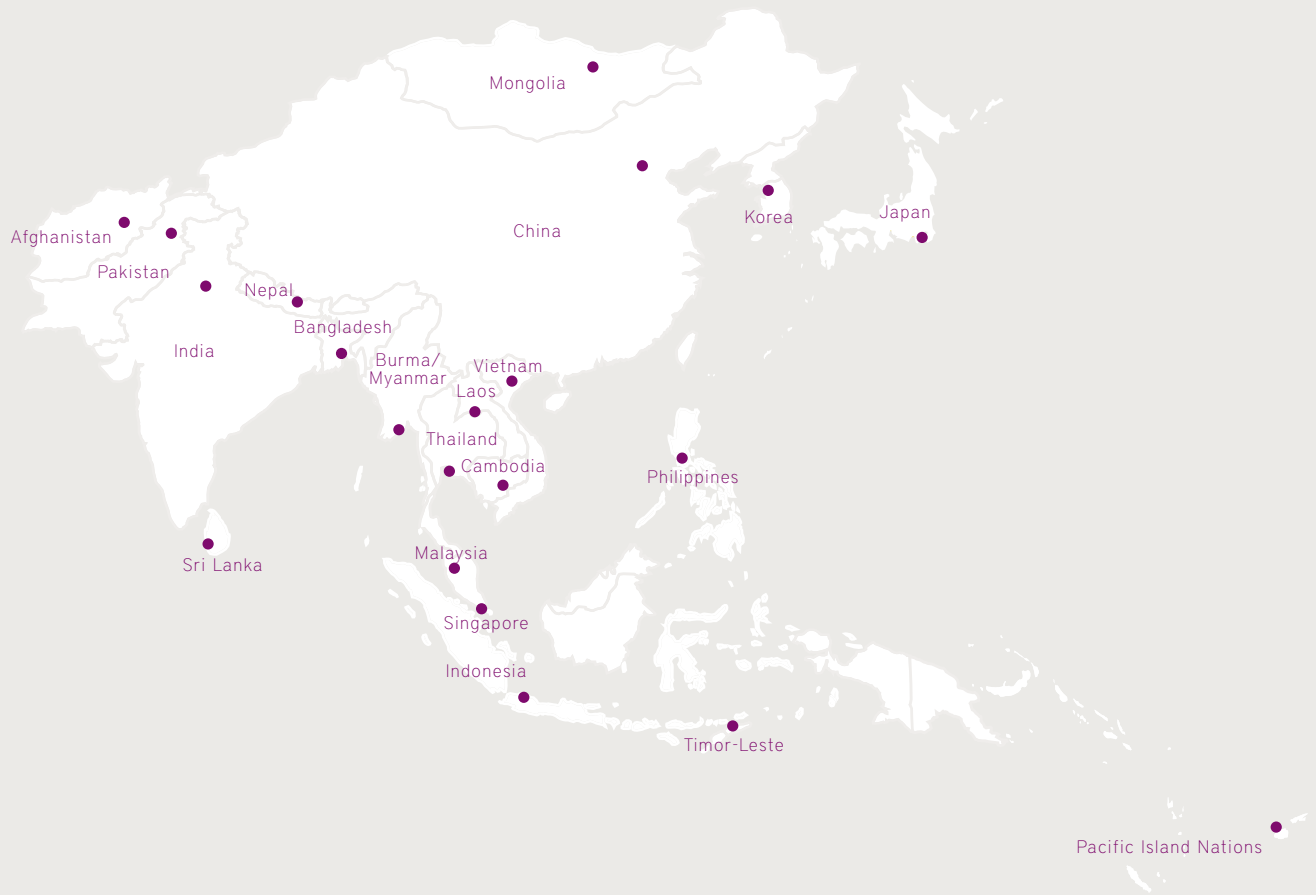
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