



October 2013

In this issue: Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, APEC, Mongolia, Asia Development Fellows

Upcoming Event:

October 23 – The Asia Foundation invites you to the presentation of its new study, "State and Region Governments in Myanmar," focusing on subnational governance in the border states of Myanmar. A team of experts, including Dr. Matthew Arnold, Senior Program Officer with the Foundation's conflict and state fragility program in Bangkok, governance specialist Dr. Hamish Nixon, and Dr. Zaw Oo, Executive Director of Myanmar Development Resource Institute, will outline key findings, provide background information, and answer questions. This event will be streamed live on The Asia Foundation's website.

October 29 – Abdullah Ahmadzai, the Foundation's Deputy Country Representative to Afghanistan, will provide an update on Foundation programs in Afghanistan. Prior to joining the Foundation, Mr. Ahmadzai served as Chief Election Officer for the Independent Election Commission (IEC) of Afghanistan.



Mr. Abdullah Ahmadzai

Save the Date:

December 11 – The Foundation will release its annual Survey of the Afghan People. Now in its ninth year, this authoritative survey provides a barometer of Afghan public opinion. The survey's authors, as well as Afghanistan experts, will explore the findings and provide analysis. Learn more about our findings from last year's survey here. *Please note, the date for this event has been changed from November 20.*

Recent Events:

October 1 – The Asia Foundation's Country Representative to Sri Lanka, Dinesha de Silva, provided an update on programs there. Foundation efforts across the island focus on supporting long-term peace in the country as it recovers from years of internal conflict.

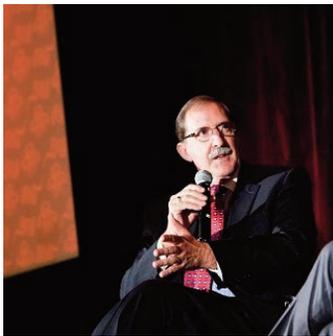


The VTTP team presents their research

October 2 – A team from The Asia Foundation’s Psychosocial Program in Sri Lanka presented findings and best practices collected from eight years working with the Foundation’s Victims of Trauma Treatment Program (VTTP). VTTP works with local partners in Sri Lanka to strengthen the capacity of trauma treatment programs to deliver effective treatment and healing services in the post-conflict environment.

October 16 – The Foundation's Women's Empowerment Program hosted Fawzia Habibi, Deputy Minister for Afghanistan's Ministry of Women's Affairs, to discuss progress toward gender equality in that country. Ms. Habibi provided updates on improved conditions for women in various fields, including health outcomes, involvement in elections, and entrepreneurship.

Notes from the Field:



Mr. David Arnold

David Arnold, President of The Asia Foundation, joined over 1,200 CEOs and 10 heads of member economies in the recent two-day APEC CEO Summit in Bali, Indonesia, a high-level meeting to address the Asia-Pacific region’s rapid growth and development. This year’s APEC CEO Summit focused on inclusive and sustainable development, with a special focus on the importance of women as powerful change agents in Asia’s growth trajectory. In line with this focus, Mr. Arnold presented the Foundation’s research on women’s entrepreneurship in four APEC economies - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand - at a sideline event hosted by the National Center for APEC

and APEC Business Advisory Council. Learn more about Mr. Arnold’s time at APEC [here](#).

Publications of Interest:

Improving Lives, Expanding Opportunities for 20 Years in Mongolia



The Asia Foundation is marking its 20th anniversary in Mongolia this year. As one of the first NGOs to be invited to Mongolia, the Foundation began implementing programs in 1990, formally opening its office in 1993. In the early 1990s, the Foundation focused on forging strong relationships with individuals and nascent organizations to support Mongolia in its transition to a democracy and market economy. The Foundation supported the drafting of Mongolia's 1992 Constitution and provided Mongolians with the opportunities for exposure to different approaches and institutional arrangements in

the U.S. and throughout Asia on topics such as rule of law, judicial and parliamentary reform, independent media, civil society, and human rights. Currently, the Foundation works with the central and local government, academics, civil society, citizens, and the private sector on critical issues including governance, environmental protection, urban services improvement, citizen participation, women's empowerment, anti-trafficking, and education through scholarship programs and the Books for Asia program.

Special Announcement – Launch of the Asia Development Fellows Program

The Asia Development Fellows: Emerging Leadership for Asia's Future 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 year-long professional advancement program is designed to be a multifaceted experience, involving intensive learning modules – short courses, conferences and study tours in Asia and the U.S. – to enhance leadership skills, Asian development knowledge, professional networks, and international exposure. The program provides the flexibility for Fellows to design their own professional development component and to stay in their current occupations while participating in the program's rigorous modules.

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. We welcome your comments, which can be sent to info@asiafound-dc.org. Please feel free to forward this update to colleagues and friends.