

their own communities. For example, the Foundation is fostering entrepreneurship among migrant workers and supporting them to start or improve small businesses. The Foundation also piloted a project to assist rural ethnic minority women in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to become more financially secure by enhancing the quality and marketability of their products, forming or strengthening professional cooperatives, and leveraging microloans.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

For more than 50 years, The Asia Foundation has supported a wide range of activities to promote international dialogue and greater understanding among the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, including the United States. Throughout this process, the Foundation has maintained a reputation as a neutral, trusted convener that can bring together high-level experts on some of the region's most sensitive issues. Since 1979, the Foundation has supported programs to improve U.S.-China relations, focusing on exchanges and dialogues.

Over the past three decades, nearly 90 emerging leaders from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs have taken part in the Foundation's Young Diplomats Program, in which participants undertake a one-year master's degree in international relations at a prestigious American university. This fellowship program has enlarged the community of Chinese foreign policy practitioners who understand the substance and process of U.S. foreign policy, including its domestic determinants, and has contributed to better informed and more constructive engagement on bilateral issues over time. Program alumni have gone on to serve in such distinguished positions as Directors General, Vice Ministers, and Ambassadors around the globe.

The Foundation's China program also organizes a series of conferences to improve U.S. relations with China and its neighbors. These include annual China-Japan-U.S. trilateral conferences, as well as trilateral meetings involving China, Vietnam, and the U.S., which bring together policymakers and scholars from the various countries to discuss issues of common concern. The Foundation also supports the annual dialogue "Sino-United States Relations: Regional Security

and Global Governance," which alternates between Shanghai and Honolulu and gathers prominent experts from China and the U.S. to examine key issues affecting bilateral ties—including such global governance topics as energy security, climate change, foreign aid policy humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.

Through a distinguished visitors program, the Foundation also organizes short-term study tours that are custom-designed for senior government officials. The program is intended to give high-level Chinese officials an opportunity to visit the U.S. in a capacity that is distinct from their official work. One recent participant from the Ministry of Environmental Protection focused on the role of government and the media in promoting environmental awareness and education. Since 2000, the Foundation has also supported eight Chinese journalists as L.Z. Yuan Fellows to pursue media and foreign affairs studies in the U.S.

## BOOKS FOR ASIA



As China emerges as a dynamic player in the world economy, with a more mobile and educated workforce and advancing research capabilities, the demand for English-language books is multiplying. The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program has delivered more than 3.7 million books and journals to China since 1980. Each year, donations reach hundreds of colleges and universities across all of China's provinces. The vast majority of the books are university-level, professional texts related to critical development topics—such as economics and finance, business, engineering, medicine, nursing, architecture, and computer science.

The Asia Foundation's programs in China are funded by a broad range of public and private donors, including: the Royal Netherlands Embassy Beijing, United States Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, New Zealand Agency for International Development, Henry Luce Foundation, Levi Strauss Foundation, The Boeing Company, Chubb Corporation, and the Two Ten Footwear Foundation. Through Give2Asia, the Foundation's China programs also receive funding from the AIG Disaster Relief Fund, H.B. Fuller Company Foundation, and the PepsiCo Foundation.

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# China



The Asia Foundation's China program supports programs related to law and governance, environmental protection, women's empowerment, disaster management, and constructive U.S.-China relations.



China's economic transformation presents new challenges both for the country's rapidly changing society and for the government, which has undertaken reforms to promote the rule of law, curb pollution, and encourage more broad-based development. To help address these challenges and contribute to reforms, The Asia Foundation provides financial support and technical assistance to a broad range of Chinese partners—universities, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and government institutions, including legislative affairs offices at the central and local level. Specific program areas include law and governance, environmental protection, empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups, and disaster management. As China's global importance increases, the Foundation also continues to build on over 30 years of programming to facilitate more cooperative and multifaceted bilateral relations between China and the United States.

Through Give2Asia, a U.S.-based nonprofit founded by The Asia Foundation in 2001 to facilitate charitable giving to Asia, more U.S.-based individuals, families, corporations, and foundations are able to support projects focusing on rural education, health care, disaster relief, and poverty alleviation. Programs are growing rapidly, and China receives more Give2Asia grants today than any other Asian country.

## LAW AND GOVERNANCE

China's opening up and reform has brought its citizens greater freedoms and strengthened rule of law, but many challenges remain in developing an effective legal system throughout the country. The

Asia Foundation's current law and governance programs support the development of administrative law, facilitate public participation in lawmaking and administrative rulemaking, and encourage transparent government information systems.

The Foundation has worked with various Chinese partners—including the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, Peking University Law School, Chinese Academy of Governance, other universities and community-level organizations—to strengthen public participation and transparency in government lawmaking and policymaking. One recent program piloted innovative mechanisms to enhance public participation in actual legislative contexts at different government levels; and trained more than 320 government officials, 700 community group members, and 50 deputies of people's congresses to increase their understanding and awareness of public participation. The program also strengthened the participation of community groups in government decision making about grassroots development and poverty alleviation. It concluded with policy recommendations aimed at strengthening and institutionalizing the legal process through which citizens and groups can participate in lawmaking.

To support government agencies and officials in adopting more open government processes, the Foundation has worked with the Hunan provincial government on a program to promote effective implementation of 2008 national regulations and related local guidelines on Open Government Information (OGI). The program created three OGI centers at county-level pilot sites, and



## CHINA

The Asia Foundation has been programming in China since 1979.

In Guangdong, the Foundation is working with local environmental policymakers, industry associations, and think tanks on low carbon city planning, developing a guide on how SMEs can contribute to the planning process.

The Foundation supports programs that foster entrepreneurship among migrant workers and assists them to start or improve small businesses.

improved the capacity of the general public to access government information through public awareness activities and legal aid. The 2008 national OGI regulations are China's first national regulations on public disclosure of government information, representing an important step for expanding and safeguarding citizens' "right to know."

Building on the Hunan experience and earlier administrative law programs, the Foundation now works with local law schools and legislative affairs offices to support administrative law reforms in Jiangsu, Gansu, and Shaanxi. Program activities include: legislative development on OGI and administrative procedure; dissemination of best practices on transparency and participation; establishing administrative law clinics at law schools; and promoting public education on administrative procedure rights and OGI issues.

Fostering openness and citizen participation in decision making is at the heart of the Foundation's program on land law as well. To increase transparency and fairness in land requisition decisions, the Foundation is working with a broad range of partners in 13 locations throughout China on legislative drafting, legal aid, public education, and government training. Most recently, the Foundation has expanded its work on administrative law through a new program designed to improve the implementation of laws on state compensation and administrative litigation.

The Foundation is also supporting a major new research initiative—the Chinese Governance Assessment Project (C-GAP)—that draws on these law and governance programs. C-GAP examines changes in public participation, transparency, and accountability across provinces and assesses whether these changes correlate with key governance outcomes such as improved legal compliance, reduced corruption, and better public service delivery. The project will produce fine-grained measures of governance in China over time by quantitatively and qualitatively analyzing variance across locales and documenting the origins and impacts of governance reforms.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

China faces the challenge of sustaining its rapid economic development while at the same time protecting the environment. The Asia Foundation's environmental strategy aims to build local environmental protection capacity and encourage policy and technological innovations by promoting greater dialogue and communication among multiple stakeholders. Programs focus on engaging the business sector, local citizens, and government agencies to work together to reduce environmental pollution.

In Guangdong Province, the Foundation is working with local economic development and environmental protection policymakers, enterprises, industry associations, suppliers, think tanks, and communities to reduce pollution in the Pearl River Delta and mitigate the environmental impacts of rapid industrial development. For example, the Foundation has promoted pollution prevention and cleaner production models that could lower carbon emissions in the textile and dyeing sectors by organizing international and domestic study tours; conducting sector-based environmental policy research; establishing an online directory of cleaner production technologies; presenting environmental design awards; and facilitating environmental dialogues between businesses, technology providers, and policymakers. This project exemplifies the positive role that business can play as a key stakeholder in low carbon economy planning.

In this context, the Foundation is supporting a new program to strengthen the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in low carbon economy planning at the city level. This program is convening forums for SMEs and local government authorities to collaboratively discuss low carbon city planning, and is developing a guide on how SMEs can contribute to the planning process. Through these activities, the program aims to improve both the design and implementation of low carbon economy policies by taking SME perspectives into account.

To encourage innovative approaches to sustainable economic development in China, the Foundation also supported an environmental entrepreneurship program that provided training to emerging local entrepreneurs on environmental problems, business opportunities to address such problems, and also how to make business plans more environmentally-friendly.

Along with rapid economic development, conflicts related to environmental pollution reportedly have increased at an annual rate of over 20 percent in China, but less than 1 percent of such conflicts are brought to court. Instead, most pollution victims bring their grievances to environmental protection bureaus or other governmental agencies that may not be well-positioned to resolve such disputes. To address this gap, the Foundation is supporting a program that encourages the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to resolve environmental conflicts. The program is conducting research on current ADR practices in China, training potential ADR practitioners, and supporting the utilization of ADR methods in actual environmental cases.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY

Since 2005, the Foundation has partnered with the Department of Disaster Relief of the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MOCA), the government agency responsible for disaster reduction and relief nationwide, on a series of programs to enhance multi-sectoral approaches and community participation in disaster management in China.



The Foundation is working with MOCA, Sichuan University College of Environment and Architecture, the Academy of Disaster

Reduction and Emergency Management, and the Chengdu Education Foundation to support earthquake recovery and disaster risk reduction in Sichuan. The program aims to promote safe rehabilitation of rural shelters damaged during the devastating Wenchuan earthquake in May 2008, focusing on the most disadvantaged households and villages; and to improve disaster preparedness and mitigation in schools and communities in earthquake-affected areas of Sichuan. The program has already trained more than 150 teachers and education officials on how to better disseminate disaster risk reduction knowledge and skills to students, and developed teacher and student handbooks that will be distributed to over 1,140 elementary and middle schools with a total student population of over 1.5 million.

Since 2006, the Foundation has also worked with MOCA, local Departments of Civil Affairs, the American Chambers of Commerce in Beijing and Shanghai, the Chinese Enterprise Confederation, and Chinese charity organizations to improve disaster management in China through increased public-private partnerships. This program has mobilized private sector contributions to disaster preparedness and enhanced multisectoral approaches to disaster management at the community level. Program activities have taken place in Beijing, Shanghai, Ningbo, Qingdao, Sichuan, and Hunan.

The Wenchuan earthquake and other natural disasters have prompted China to improve different aspects of its disaster management system, particularly coordination. To this end, the State Council recently established the National Institute of Emergency Management (NIEM)—housed within the Chinese Academy of Governance and tasked with becoming the country's leading organi-

zation for disaster management training, policy research, and advisory support. To help NIEM fulfill this important mandate, The Asia Foundation is organizing a two-year program to improve disaster management coordination by building NIEM's capacity through curriculum development, faculty training, and exchanges on disaster coordination and leadership.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

While China's economic rise has helped to lift more than 200 million out of poverty and raise the standard of living for millions more, challenges remain for women and disadvantaged groups who are joining the workforce. Each year, millions of rural Chinese migrate to China's major manufacturing hubs in search of employment and a better life. Half of these migrants are young women. Most are in their 20s, have limited education or work experience, little knowledge of their labor rights under Chinese law, and are unaware of existing social services and networks available to them. These conditions leave migrant women vulnerable to labor exploitation and abuse. Meanwhile, rural women who stay in their hometowns remain vulnerable to economic hardships, particularly in the aftermath of natural disasters.

The Foundation works closely with our local partners—women's federations, academies, and community groups—to address these challenges and empower women and other disadvantaged groups by providing education, increasing economic security, facilitating access to legal rights, and mitigating the effects of natural disasters.

Since 1999, for example, the Foundation has implemented pioneering programs to support and protect migrant workers (particularly women) in China through: increasing awareness of labor rights and occupational safety; providing legal aid; strengthening enforcement of existing labor laws to increase protection of workers; facilitating integration of migrant women into their new communities; and giving migrant women the opportunity to enhance their professional skills and continue their education. To date, our innovative migrant workers programs have reached more than one million migrant workers in more than 20 provinces/municipalities across China.

Recognizing that economic empowerment is key to poverty alleviation, the Foundation also supports women and other disadvantaged groups to explore new economic opportunities, improve their livelihoods, and identify and address long-term development issues in