

# Books for Asia Philippines

In the Philippines, Books for Asia has distributed nearly 15 million books and journals to public and private institutions across the country, contributing to leadership development, nation building, international understanding, and English-language literacy. The Asia Foundation's programs in the Philippines promote better governance to support economic growth, strengthen the rule of law, and foster peace and development in Mindanao. Building on its wide network of partners, the Foundation is helping government, local NGOs, and the private sector to strengthen democratic institutions and create sustainable economic growth.



Books for Asia Philippines provides basic texts and supplementary reading materials for schools (including pre-school, elementary, and high schools); collections for university law schools and business programs; resource materials for nongovernmental organizations; and new books to public libraries across the country. The donations cover a variety of fields, including governance, health, environment, information technology, social science, and international relations, and vary from year to year. Donations of books for this program are made possible through the tax-deductible contributions of American publishers.

## BOOKS FOR DISASTER-AFFECTED AREAS

As communities in the major disaster-affected areas started to rebuild after Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, the Australian government partnered with The Asia Foundation to augment learning resources and mobilized book donations in all provinces in the Eastern Visayas Region including Tacloban, Cebu, and Bohol.



Books for Asia, with the support of the Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program of the Australian Department of Foreign and Trades (DFAT), was able to distribute 130,000 volumes of brand new books to 780 elementary schools, colleges, and universities in the country valued at \$900,000.

Books for Asia held a series of book distribution events in Albay, Antique, Capiz, Daet, Negros Oriental, Palawan, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Tarlac, Zambales, and other provinces in coordination with local governments, school officials, and NGOs throughout the country.

## BOOKS FOR MINDANAO

Recognizing the great need for educational materials in the conflict-affected southern Philippines, the Books for Mindanao program was launched in 2003 with major support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Over 10 years, the program distributed about 500,000 volumes, valued at \$8 million as



## PHILIPPINES

Since 1954, The Asia Foundation has distributed 15 million books and educational materials to more than 15,000 public and private institutions in the Philippines valued at US\$150 million.

The Foundation distributed more than 105,000 books to 1,000 public libraries and barangay reading centers nationwide.

a continuing effort to support quality education in the provinces of Agusan Del Sur, Bukidnon, Compostela Valley, Davao Del Norte, Davao Del Sur, Lanao Del Sur, Saranggani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao Del Norte, Surigao Del Sur, and other parts of Mindanao. In partnership with USAID and local government units, many book distributions were held.

However, the need for books in the region has increased significantly in many rural communities and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao due to extreme scarcity of educational resources.

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

The Asia Foundation has developed successful partnerships with a variety of prominent organizations, including the **National Library of the Philippines** and leading foundations.

In collaboration with The National Library of the Philippines, The Asia Foundation contributes to the establishment, development and maintenance of public libraries in the country through the provision of brand new books and other supplementary reading materials. For more than 10 years, the partnership has distributed around 105,000 books to more than 1,000 public libraries in the country. Recently, The National Library of the Philippines agreed to support the Foundation through in-kind storage and processing of the books to enhance the distribution process and increase support to the programs of The National Library and all public libraries throughout the archipelago.

**Metrobank Foundation** supported Books for Asia's distribution of more than 10,000 brand new books to public elementary schools in Southern Philippines. The partnership distributed quality books and reading materials to many remote areas to improve the reading levels of Filipino children. **The Del Monte Foundation** has partnered with Books for Asia to improve educational opportunities in Mindanao. The partnership provided 12,600 new children's books to nearly 250 public elementary schools in Baungon, Impasug-ong, Kalilangan, Malaybalay City, Manolo Fortich, Maramag, Quezon, and Sumilao in the province of Bukidnon.

Likewise, The Asia Foundation supports the **Metrobank Foundation's Search for Outstanding**

**Teachers.** The Search for Outstanding Teachers is an expression of the Metrobank Foundation's commitment to promote a culture of excellence in the teaching profession. The Foundation supports this prestigious award by contributing books and reference materials to the schools of the award-winning teachers. To date, 100,000 books have been distributed to the awardees and their respective schools.

The **STI Foundation** provided grant support for the distribution of more than 10,000 brand new books to each STI registered campus and their partner schools. In support to public secondary schools as partner institutions implementing the new Senior High School curriculum, the partnership also provided brand new books to enhance their curriculum reference materials.

Through a partnership with the **MoneyGram Foundation**, Books for Asia distributed more than 30,000 books to over 30 schools across the Philippines, providing enhanced access to learning resources and impacting millions of school-age children and young adults. MoneyGram Foundation focuses solely on helping children around the world gain better access to educational facilities and learning resources. The Philippine book distribution launch is part of a larger global giving program in Asia that aims to empower children through education.

## GOING DIGITAL

Books for Asia's digital initiative brings educational content to children anytime, anywhere in languages they use at home and school. By empowering underserved communities to create their own high-quality mother tongue libraries, the breakthrough approach of Let's Read! dramatically improves access to books by children and families impacted by poverty, conflict, or gender discrimination. The centerpiece of Let's Read! is a custom-built platform that accelerates the creation and distribution of children's books in communities across developing Asia. Please visit [letsreadasia.org](http://letsreadasia.org) for more information.

In the Philippines, The Asia Foundation's programs are also funded by the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the UK's Department for International Development, the British Foreign Commonwealth Office, UNICEF, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and private organizations, companies, and individuals.

*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.*

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