



April 2015

In this issue: India, Cambodia, ASEAN, Singapore, and Bangladesh

Upcoming Events

April 29 – In a forum co-sponsored by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Isher Judge Ahluwalia, The Asia Foundation's 2015 Chang-lin Tien Distinguished Visitor and chairperson of the board of governors for the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), will discuss urbanization in India. Milan Vaishnav, associate with Carnegie's South Asia program, will moderate.

Recent Events

April 2 – Dr. Vannarith Chheang, Lecturer of Asia Pacific Studies at University of Leeds, shared his insights regarding current developments in Cambodia. Read the Foundation's recent publications on Cambodia [here](#).

April 8 – A panel of experts convened to present on opportunities and challenges for the ASEAN economic community in 2015. Edmund Sim presented research from his recent book, *Rules of Origin in ASEAN: A Way Forward*, with commentary by Robert Beckman of the National University of Singapore, Natalie Y. Morris-Sharma of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the UN and the Attorney General's Chambers in Singapore, and Véronique Salze-Lozac'h, The Asia Foundation's Senior Director for Economic Development and Chief Economist. This discussion was moderated by John Brandon, the Foundation's Director for Regional Cooperation, and can be viewed on our website.



Natalie Morris-Sharma speaks on a panel about ASEAN economic integration while Véronique Salze-Lozac'h, Robert Beckman, John Brandon, and Edmund Sim look on.



In the News

A Conversation with Singapore Ambassador Ashok Kumar Mirpuri

Earlier this month, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States Ashok Kumar Mirpuri addressed the World Affairs Council in San Francisco, where he spoke of the recent passing of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and his strategic vision for Singapore's role in the world. After the event, co-sponsored by The Asia Foundation and hosted by Foundation President and World Affairs Council Trustee David D. Arnold, Ambassador Mirpuri sat down with the Foundation's Elynn Sim to share his thoughts on Singapore's model of economic prosperity and good governance, and its crucial role in addressing regional challenges. Read the interview on our blog.



Singapore's Ambassador to the United States, Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, with Asia Foundation President, David D. Arnold.

From our Blog

Bangladesh: Billion Dollar Leather Sector Poised for Growth after Environmental Reform

Bangladesh's highly productive leather sector, under growing international scrutiny for destructive environmental practices, now seems poised for new growth as a major environmental upgrade nears completion. For decades, pollution from Dhaka's tanneries has poured into the Buriganga River, wiping out aquatic life and forcing the city to rely heavily on groundwater for washing and drinking. But a new industrial campus and a central effluent treatment plant (CETP) on the outskirts of the city are promising an environmental turnaround that has quieted international criticism and sparked new economic optimism. Read the full analysis from Syed Al-Muti, associate director for Economic Development Programs and Nayef Ahmad, senior program officer, both in The Asia Foundation's Bangladesh office, on our blog.

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.