Message from the Chairman of the Board and President

The glittering cities, powerful militaries, and bustling ports that have become the dominant social, political, and economic narrative of Asia—the “Asian Miracle”—bely the 700 million people in Asia living on less than US$1 a day; the ethnic conflicts in Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand that have left thousands dead; the human toll caused by horrific natural disasters; and deeply entrenched corruption which touches the daily lives of citizens in many corners of the region. Left unaddressed, these issues threaten Asia’s economic gains and undermine future growth and development, relegating many countries to economic stagnation, social unrest, and political instability.

Many in the region and abroad know that the time for embarking on needed policy reforms is now.

This is why we have chosen to mark our 60 years in Asia by initiating a year-long conversation on the critical issues facing Asia in the 21st century. Drawing on the expertise of our local partners and our own development experts in the 18 countries where we work, we are focusing international attention on six issues that form the core of the Foundation’s current program agenda. These include:

- Lack of transparency and accountability in government;
- Persistent poverty and rising income inequality;
- Exclusion of women from political and economic life;
- Ethnic and religious conflicts;
- Access to justice and human rights; and
- Disaster management, climate change, and water resource management.

The Foundation’s efforts to address these critical issues are highlighted in this annual report and will be featured more fully in coming issues of In Asia, a noted international blog, and in other Foundation publications during the coming year.

A key legacy of The Asia Foundation’s work in Asia is the leadership we have helped to nurture in different sectors and fields of interest. Since 1954 we have invested in future and current leaders who have gone on to influence the course of their societies, of democracy, of Asia. To mark our anniversary, we’ve launched a new initiative—Asia Foundation Development Fellows—to provide young, dedicated professionals from Asia with an unparalleled opportunity to hone their skills, broaden their horizons, and establish lasting connections with other emerging development leaders. The first class of 10 young men and women from across Asia are now participating in a program designed to support innovative development pioneers creating the future of Asia.

The Asia Foundation has always worked to help societies flourish: from the successful relocation of Bangladesh’s leather industry from central Dhaka to a new and environmentally compliant industrial zone; to strengthening ties between the police and citizens in Timor-Leste, Asia’s newest independent nation; to helping women in Afghanistan and Pakistan participate fully in the political life of their countries; to healing the deep psychological wounds from Sri Lanka’s long, brutal civil war; we are working on the ground to give added thrust to Asia’s development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region.
More than half the planet’s people live in Asia, millions of whom are affected by economic hardship, dysfunctional governance, and ongoing violence. Proof is no longer needed of the connectedness between Asia and the rest of the world; climate change and disasters, lethal riots, discrimination, corruption, and wars reverberate across borders, calling us all to action.

The Asia Foundation has never sat on the sidelines and watched. Please join us as a partner in Asia’s future growth and development.

David D. Arnold
President

In 1954, a handful of civic-minded individuals who shared a strong interest in Asia, and records of distinguished public service formed The Asia Foundation, a private non-governmental organization devoted to promoting democracy, the rule of law, and market-based development.

The Asia of that time was dramatically different. It was recovering from the devastation of the Korean War; it was sharply divided between communist and non-communist spheres; internal conflicts wreaked the Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam; and while Japan was taking off economically, no one talked yet about “Asian Tigers.”

The Asia Foundation’s activities reflected these realities, as its program today responds to different contemporary social, political, economic, and environmental challenges. What sets The Asia Foundation apart in the eyes of Asian leaders, I believe, is its ability to make things happen, to serve as a catalyst for change.

This letter concludes my two highly satisfying decades on the Board of Trustees, the last five years as Chairman. It’s been a privilege and an honor to be associated with what I consider the preeminent nonprofit development organization working in Asia.

David M. Lampton
Chairman of the Board and Executive Committee

Michael H. Armacost
Outgoing Chairman of the Board and Executive Committee
LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT
Lack of Transparency and Accountability in Government

Accountable governance institutions are critical to sustainable growth, particularly in countries experiencing rapid social and economic change. As more Asian countries achieve “middle income” status, citizen demands for good government are growing, as seen by rising anti-corruption movements in India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam. Even Mongolia, often rated as one of the world’s most corrupt nations, is determined to overcome this problem despite significant obstacles. Left unaddressed, corruption and a lack of transparency may relegate many to economic stagnation, social unrest, and political instability.
Our office in Phnom Penh is actively supporting the monitoring, investigating, and reporting of government accountability including violations of basic rights. Foreign investment, surging from $850m in 2011 to $1.5bn in 2012, and the rapid growth of garment manufacturing, are luring Cambodians to Phnom Penh in search of jobs. But as the city’s population swells, significant numbers of poor urban residents are living without basic services: clean water, sewage, and garbage collection. As part of the Foundation’s work on urban governance, our local office prepared a memorandum of solutions for waste collection and disposal to the new governor of Phnom Penh from the Municipal Waste Authority. Now, we are collaborating with solid-waste collector CINTRI, and City Hall, to develop plans to improve and reform city services, and put ideas into action. As of this writing, a new pilot program is in place, the first major regulatory and oversight effort of municipal waste in Cambodia’s capital.
Malaysia

Last year’s fiercely contested general elections shook Malaysia. Despite the rise in election-related violence cases, 2.6m new voters registered, an increase from 638,000 in 2012. Thronges of Malaysians turned out at public forums demanding transparency and electoral processes that are free, fair, and safe. While challenges remain, reform efforts put in place by the government and Election Commission to address the country’s electoral integrity are positive signs. Last year, we continued an ongoing effort to foster a sound electoral process in an effort to instill citizen confidence, make voter education a regular feature of the electoral system, improve the integrity of campaigning and election-day implementation, and strengthen the skills and strategies of election observers.
Myanmar

Myanmar has transformed from an isolated country to a more open society seeking engagement with the international community. After an absence of more than five decades, we reopened our office here to support the transition process through building capacity for regional and global integration, strengthening institutions of democratic governance, and increasing access to information. Decentralization and state-local relations as mandated by the 2008 Constitution are critical issues for Myanmar’s stability and development. They are also highly contested and complicated issues, given the country’s history of centralized governance, long-running ethnic subnational conflicts, and ongoing disputes over the constitution. To inform policymakers, civil society organizations, the private sector, development partners, and other interested stakeholders about the new state and region structures, and their relationship to governance, peace, and decentralization, we partnered with the Center for Economic and Social Development of the Myanmar Development Resource Institute (MDRI) to carry out the first systematic mapping of state and region government in Myanmar. The report was well received as a contribution to the ongoing discourse in Myanmar on transparent, accountable, and effective governance. A follow-on discussion paper series on subnational governance will be published in 2014.
Mongolia

A 2013 survey we conducted in partnership with Sant Maral Foundation indicates significantly fewer Mongolians feel that corruption has increased, just 18 percent compared with 63 percent in 2006. At the same time, corruption remains a serious problem in Mongolia. For decades, The Asia Foundation has actively supported Mongolia’s transition to a democracy and market economy. The Independent Authority Against Corruption has been a Foundation partner since its inception in 2006 and has consistently been perceived to be the agency to lead anti-corruption efforts in Mongolia. In 2013, we helped them form the Partnership in Transparency Initiative, a network of 18 civil society organizations working together to spread the word about new legislation on conflict of interest and freedom of information. One joint effort with the Zorig Foundation included a Facebook video competition on the topic of conflict of interest. The three-week-long competition drew 60 submissions, 310,229 views, 10,628 likes, and 1,225 shares.
Vietnam

The stresses and strains of modernization are putting Vietnam's economic miracle under pressure. Inflation, inefficient state-owned enterprises, a fragile banking sector, and land and environmental disputes are topics of heated public debate. As part of our strategy to support reform, strengthen communities, and enhance state-society relations, we have worked with the National Assembly to develop their landmark website, D' Thảo Online, where draft laws and ordinances prepared for the National Assembly are posted for anyone to comment. Opinions are then shared with the committees drafting the laws. This is a significant step forward to improve transparency in the country's lawmaking process, and supports an increasingly active institution to develop a new depth of engagement with the public. Our office has supported the website since 2008, making it increasingly accessible and user-friendly and dramatically increasing the number of citizens who actively participate in the country's legislative agenda. Since the launch of the upgraded version in 2012, nearly 100 draft laws have been made available to the public. The increase in interest in the website and laws and debates on it has been rapid. In 2012 there were 370,000 page views; in 2013, 1.15 million. Last year, when a draft of the revised constitution was posted, 1,900 Vietnamese commented on it through D' Thảo Online.
Persistent Poverty and Rising Income Inequality

Despite the region's dramatic growth, income inequality in Asia continues to rise and some 700 million people live on less than US$1 a day. This is more than an economic issue, it is a social justice issue, a sustainability and a stability issue. The Asia Foundation has been working to promote economic growth, shared prosperity, and regional economic cooperation in Asia for six decades. Many Asian nations have the resources, and capacity to diversify and grow—but these societies urgently need better governance and policy reform to create jobs and foster “inclusive growth.” In Myanmar, for example, a lack of transparency, combined with bureaucratic and legal impediments, is preventing citizens from opening businesses. The country is rich in oil, gas, timber, gems, and hydropower, but its future will hinge on its ability to build a private economy and create jobs.
Bangladesh

The government of Bangladesh and the two major Bangladeshi leather industry trade associations reached a historic agreement last year to move the leather industry from central Dhaka to Savar, a new, environmentally compliant industrial zone on the outskirts of the city. Economists predict that if the leather industry continues its impressive growth, it may challenge the ready-made garment sector as one of Bangladesh’s most valuable exports. Our local office helped to bring together private and public sector participants through dialogue. A coalition was formed providing guidance on future steps, sharing experiences, and examining the potential that the industry would realize by relocating and the consequences of not doing so. The coalition will continue to work together and demonstrate the potential of the leather sector to international donors to create momentum and interest, and ensure that funding will be available for expansion of the industry. In addition to their efforts on economic development, our staff in Dhaka also work to promote free and fair elections; effectiveness and transparency of the parliament; and engagement of religious and secular leaders to advance national development.
Korea

The Asia Foundation opened its doors in Insa-dong, Seoul, in the aftermath of the Korean War in 1954. Since that time, South Korea has undergone a dramatic transition, 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. To celebrate our 60th anniversary, hwangap, we are hosting a series of events throughout 2014. Our office in Seoul cooperates with South Korean government agencies and NGOs on international development donor dialogues, promotes international exchanges with North Korea, and facilitates regional programs in Northeast Asia. Last year, North Korea specialists and government officials from Australia, China, Laos, South Korea, Taiwan, the United States, and Vietnam met in Hanoi to explore lessons from Asia’s successful transition economies for North Korea’s transition to a more open and prosperous economy. This second of a two-part research seminar was organized by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies and The Asia Foundation, and hosted by the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. The first seminar in Ulaanbaatar explored the lessons of Northeast Asia’s transition economies. The seminar in Hanoi focused on the experiences and lessons of Southeast Asia, as well as China, South Korea, and Taiwan. Selections of papers presented will be published by the Asan Institute.
The late 80s and early 90s witness democratic transitions in many Asian countries, prompting the Foundation to launch a groundbreaking Women’s Political Participation program to advance Asian women in public decision-making roles.

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Increasingly, women are visible in Asian public leadership, but the actual rates of men and women voting and running for office are vastly unequal. Women are routinely discouraged from entering politics; the few who do are paid less than men for the same work. The low status of women in countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan has led activists to strengthen the link between women’s political participation and their ability to preserve hard-fought legal, educational, and economic gains. Women entrepreneurs, who represent a significant portion of Asia’s small and medium-sized businesses, face barriers to entry, access to credit, and discrimination. If women are not able to participate as equal partners, poverty, illiteracy, and lack of opportunity will threaten the region’s prospects.
Laos

Laotian women and girls migrate annually for income but are often lured by false promises and forced into prostitution or labor exploitation. We empower women through legal awareness, education, and new economic opportunities. Recently, The Asia Foundation and The Chong-Moon Lee Foundation embarked together on an effort to address this issue. Intensive vocational training scholarships for survivors and those at risk, and a public awareness campaign, were launched as pilots last year. As of this writing, a group of trafficking victims have received marketable skills training at the Lao Women’s Union and the Center for Acting for Women in Distressing Circumstances. The Lao Women’s Union also trained other young women from the National University of Laos and technical schools to be peer educators. These volunteers have reached out to nearly 400 at-risk high school students and factory workers on the reality and dangers of trafficking, and provided suggestions for how to help those in need. Ultimately, our goal is for the peer educators to positively influence more than 10,000 young women. Our additional programs in Laos include assisting local efforts to improve access to justice, safeguard natural resources, reduce intellectual and policy isolation, and strengthen foreign policy capacity building.
India

The brutal gang rape of a young woman in New Delhi two years ago brought a new level of urgency and international attention to the lack of women’s security in India. The Foundation supports the protection of women’s basic security; open, accountable, and inclusive governance; and India’s constructive engagement in regional and global affairs. Last year, to scale up the ability of law enforcement agencies to respond to victims of violence and enhance their sensitivity and understanding of gender, we supported the Centre for Social Research (CSR) to provide training to hundreds of police officers in New Delhi. Officers were trained on human rights, the Indian Constitution, protection of women under the Indian Penal Code, and specific laws that protect women and children against violence. Officers learned how this violence occurs, prevention strategies, and how to intervene. We also supported CSR’s Crisis Centers in New Delhi, including workshops to educate men and boys from urban communities about gender equality, violence against women, and how to file a first information report (FIR) with the police.
Pakistan

Pakistan faces serious governance, security, social, and economic challenges, and our efforts bridge the gap between citizens and government, foster human rights and social inclusion, and enhance the abilities of local institutions to meet development needs. Women’s political participation is a priority of the Foundation’s governance work and last year we supported a nationwide voter registration to mobilize women’s participation in the 2013 election, following the first civilian government transition in 65 years. Door-to-door voter education efforts were launched at more than 500 polling areas. Nearly 400,000 women turned out to vote, many of whom were issued computerized national identity cards, some for the first time in their lives. Even in villages known for restrictions on women, we worked with local partners to help broker agreements so that women could cast their votes. We supported efforts to include women throughout the entire electoral process, from deploying women as Election Day observers, to training for female political leaders and party members.
The Lotus Circle

The Lotus Circle, a community of individuals working with The Asia Foundation to empower women and girls in Asia, last year honored Silicon Valley entrepreneur Mr. Chong-Moon Lee at the third annual Lotus Leadership Awards in New York City. Mr. Lee, a native of Korea, has funded a multi-year, multi-country initiative to combat the trafficking of women and girls in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos, and received a Lotus Leadership Award for his contributions to the health and well-being of women and girls in Asia. Luncheon co-chairs Masako Shinn, a trustee of The Asia Foundation, and Ida Liu, managing director and head of North America Asian Clients Group at Citi Private Bank, made opening remarks. To raise awareness of the crime of human trafficking, Lynn Sherr, who reported on women’s issues for 30 years as an ABC News correspondent, interviewed U.S. Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, director of the U.S. State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, as part of a panel discussion. The Honorable Sapan Pradhan Malla, a leading women’s rights activist in Nepal who helped pass the country’s landmark Human Trafficking Act, now a model for the region, also received an award. Said Ms. Pradhan Malla to The New York Times after the luncheon: “Most importantly, the root cause needs to be addressed—the poverty, illiteracy, corruption. In many human trafficking cases, people are lured by economic benefits.”
Ethnic and Religious Conflicts

Subnational conflicts are the most deadly, widespread, and enduring violent conflicts in Asia. Our landmark findings revealed that between 1999 and 2008, more people died in subnational conflicts in Asia than in all other forms of conflict combined. In South and Southeast Asia, these conflicts are affecting regions the size of Indonesia and more than 130 million people. In fact, many of Asia’s worst cases of instability, poor governance, and political violence are a result of ethnic and religious conflicts such as in Southern Thailand, Southern Philippines, and Myanmar. In Thailand, the resurgence of an indigenous ethno-nationalist conflict in the nation’s three southern provinces of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat has left nearly 6,000 dead and over 9,500 injured. Enduring grievances there, and in other areas, will continue to feed a sense of resentment and foster violent responses unless sustainable solutions are reached.
Philippines

The Philippine economy continues to surge, with investment-grade ratings, fast economic growth, and the good governance agenda of President Aquino. However, inclusivity of growth remains elusive, and political instability and conflict in Mindanao, in the Southern Philippines, continues to cloud these efforts. Our local staff utilizes a political economy framework involving networks and coalitions of willing partners to achieve reforms, improve community relations with security forces in conflict-affected areas, drive economic reform with concrete, measurable successes, and uphold human rights. For four years we were part of the International Contact Group for peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, or MILF. Our staff attended peace talks in Kuala Lumpur, observed plenary sessions between the two panels, and participated in working groups on the agreements being negotiated, culminating in the October 2012 signing of a Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro. As the two parties move toward full implementation of the agreement by 2016, our role has shifted. The government and the MILF have agreed that Asia Foundation Representative Steven Rood will be one of five members of a Third Party Monitoring Team, comprised of both internationals and nationals. Implementation of signed agreements will be monitored and reports issued. This process will last until an “exit agreement” is signed in 2016, signifying that the Bangsamoro government is up and running.
Indonesia

After 10 years of relative stability under the leadership of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Indonesians are preparing for national legislative and presidential elections in 2014. Indonesians overwhelmingly support democracy and the electoral process, despite several high-profile corruption cases, declining trust in the House of Representatives, and open acknowledgement of money politics. Our programs strengthen the effectiveness of democratic institutions; support the rule of law; address human rights; empower women's political and economic participation; and support environmental governance. Religious intolerance continues to stoke conflict and violence in Indonesia, and last year we supported Paramadina Foundation, a local organization, to examine why police are able to protect minorities and uphold religious freedom in some instances, but fail at other times. In contrast to earlier work, the study found that the personal beliefs of police officers did not play a critical role in the protection of minorities. Rather, the most decisive factor in preventing violence against minorities was police professionalism. When police acted early, violence did not occur. Timely and accurate intelligence information also played a role. The results of the study will be presented to the national and district police and other stakeholders to address this serious and worsening problem.
Afghanistan

According to the Foundation's annual Survey of the Afghan People, 66 percent of the population say the most influential people in their community are religious leaders. Respondents say it is these leaders who shape public opinion and are looked to for guidance on what is acceptable change. Every Friday these leaders deliver sermons in the estimated 150,000 mosques in Afghanistan influencing millions of Afghan citizens.

Our local office works with religious institutions and leaders to create positive change and encourage non-military solutions to resolve political and religious differences. Last year, we arranged exchange visits for religious leaders (Ulama), both men and women, from most of the country's 34 provinces to visit moderate Muslim majority countries such as Turkey, Malaysia, Egypt, and the UAE. The visits provide leaders with an opportunity to interact with their counterparts and learn how other religious leaders play positive roles in community development and dispute resolution. The program has inspired some participants to establish research centers, women's madrassas, and a new university. In Faryab province, we are helping the provincial and district governments respond to the needs of local people and engage religious leaders and institutions, from strengthening women's rights and access to justice, to enhancing conflict resolution skills. Our local office assists Afghan efforts to rebuild the country and accelerate development through programs in governance, law, and civil society, and national voter registration, civic education, women's empowerment, and education.
Access to Justice and Human Rights

Weak legal institutions and systems of justice mean citizens throughout Asia face daunting challenges in resolving disputes, enforcing their rights, and accessing benefits to which they are legally entitled. In a number of fledgling democracies, political uncertainty, high unemployment, and social divisions breed violent acts, leaving communities helpless and shattered. For example, Cambodia, still recovering from decades of war and genocide, remains plagued by impunity, poverty, nepotism, corruption, and land grabs. Yet, after six years of judicial proceedings and a cost of $200 million, the Khmer Rouge tribunal is likely to secure no more than three convictions.
Sri Lanka

Much remains to be done to heal the deep psychological wounds from Sri Lanka’s long, brutal civil war, and we are committed to helping the country achieve long-term peace and prosperity by strengthening institutions of governance and improving economic growth, security, and justice. Nearly five years after the end of the war, Sri Lankans are still confronting the daunting challenge of recovery. In the conflict-affected North and East, we support healing of the psychological scars of survivors of violence by improving the quality of service and clinical capacity of mental health psychosocial support providers. Our staff also continue to work with government agencies to provide a sustained response to people in need. Our local partners, active in eight districts, are respected for their clinical services, which offer counseling, medical care, physiotherapy, and relaxation techniques. Many of the psychosocial workers and volunteers are themselves coming to terms with overwhelming loss, but are motivated to support their communities as they consider this work to be a public service. A counselor in Jaffna recently told us, “This has brought changes to my life. It has made me listen to others and their views; I respect other perspectives now.”
Thailand

While Thailand’s advancement to upper middle-income status has proven resilient to economic and political shocks, its continued upward growth trajectory is threatened by persistent political tensions, subnational conflict, weak environmental governance, and growth policies that are inconsistent with the demands of an integrated regional economy. In this context, we address multiple and mutually reinforcing priorities: transformational conflict resolution in the South; decentralization and access to justice; environmental governance; and domestic economic growth and regional integration. To strengthen criminal justice administration and improve access to justice, in 2013 we helped train more than 100 public prosecutors, forensic police, and other criminal justice officials and over 200 human rights lawyers. We also supported the reform of laws and regulations governing forensic investigation and produced an acclaimed set of animated films on forensic investigation and evidence that have been adopted as teaching resources by the Office of the Attorney General and the Royal Thai Police. In the South, we contributed to the training of members of a specialized public prosecution unit using materials that we developed. The success of our work in criminal justice, including reduction in the number of cases dismissed for lack of credible evidence, builds on trust relations established with partners in civil society, government, academia, and the media and our brokering of dialogue and cooperation between stakeholders whose responsibilities are best fulfilled by collaboration in meeting common goals.
Timor-Leste

As citizens of the newest independent nation in Asia, the people of Timor-Leste have high hopes for the Policia Nacional del Timor-Leste as a vanguard of peace, stability, and justice. Although this nascent institution lacks the resources, training, and skills to adequately address current security needs, we have learned that crime can be reduced, and often prevented, if police engage with the community and actively improve their accountability to citizens. The Asia Foundation is a leader in strengthening ties between police and communities to improve police performance and build public trust. In an ongoing effort to build support for police reform and further institutionalize community engagement, we have helped strengthen the technical capacity of police officers, civil society, and community leaders in community policing; supported grants to resolve urgent security priorities at the local level, like domestic violence and land disputes; and engaged more than 10,000 citizens and community leaders and 1,088 police officers. Strengthening the capabilities of institutions like the national police, and citizens’ understanding of them, is a key focus of our staff in Dili, as well as on conflict management and women’s empowerment.
The devastation caused by large-scale disasters and climate change imposes a huge economic and human toll on developing countries of Asia. As of this writing, millions in the Philippines are still recovering from the injuries, psychological trauma, and financial losses caused by Typhoon Haiyan, which tested and overwhelmed the government’s disaster management response system. In China, one of the countries most vulnerable to natural disasters, the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan Province claimed the lives of nearly 70,000 people and left 1.5 million without shelter. After the devastation, a coalition of Chinese NGOs active in the disaster response and relief field recognized the urgency of establishing standardized preparedness systems and rallied to address the needs of affected populations.
Nepal

Peace and stability in Nepal are fragile, despite fresh elections and the promise of a progressive constitution. Improving quality of life for all Nepalis requires sustained attention to equality and justice in economic, social, and political life through an equitable restructuring of the Nepali state, improved governance capacity at local levels, and more civic engagement. We are encouraging a smooth political transition; peaceful conflict transformation; enhanced women's rights and security; accountable local governance; and economic opportunity. Building on our long-standing experience in supporting interest-based community mediation practices in Nepal we are developing a practice manual and training courses for complex, multi-stakeholder dispute resolution. Our pioneering method is well suited to also resolve long-standing disputes in development projects, such as electricity production. Chronic power cuts every year of up to 18 hours a day forced the government to declare a state of energy emergency in 2011 and pledge to eliminate the crisis through hydropower; but affected communities, investors, regulating agencies, environmentalists, and local bodies have been entangled in intractable conflict, stalling progress. Our local partner, Niti Foundation, is working with the Nepal Investment Board to design dispute resolution services for large-scale projects, including hydropower.
Books for Asia

Books for Asia today is the leading provider of donated information resources in the region. Each year, the program reaches thousands of institutions in 19 Asian countries, connecting students, educators, and local and national leaders with the knowledge they need to contribute to sound policy and improved services for their constituencies. Through donations and technology initiatives, we help infuse young students with an early love of reading essential for literacy; build knowledge in the business, legal, and science professions; sharpen vocational and research ability; and enhance much needed English-language skills to compete in the global economy. Our deep knowledge of the educational needs in Asia and strong relationships with publishers also allow us to mobilize resources after natural disasters and even during conflicts. In response to the string of tragedies in 2013 in the Philippines, for example, Books for Asia is restocking the shelves of thousands of damaged and destroyed schools with 350,000 brand-new books. These resources will replace those lost due to Typhoon Haiyan, which killed 6,000 and displaced four million people.
China

China has long faced the threat of natural disasters, so we are actively working with national and local government agencies and local communities to foster a culture of disaster preparedness. Local officials and community leaders in six pilot provinces are now applying disaster risk reduction skills and training their peers to mitigate community-level disaster risks. Recognizing the potential to significantly improve the resiliency of communities against disasters, the Chinese government utilized project experiences to formulate standards for a national system of community-based disaster reduction; named several of the pilot communities as models for the system; and shared the project experiences across the country. By the end of 2013, there were more than 5,400 prepared communities, already surpassing the government’s goal of 5,000 by 2015. Our office in Beijing is also building on these domestically focused efforts to support China in improving the country’s approach to foreign disaster assistance through enhanced understanding of and dialogue with established donor countries. Alongside this work, we support law and governance, environmental protection, and women’s empowerment; and we are increasingly engaging China on regional and global governance issues, including international development cooperation.
For 60 years, our support of emerging leaders in Asia has yielded an extraordinary list of talented and distinguished Asians, from public office, academia, the private sector, and civil society, who have influenced the course of development and progress in their countries. We have always believed and invested in the “human capital” needed for societies to develop and flourish. Our newest endeavor, the Asia Foundation Development Fellows: Emerging Leadership for Asia’s Future program targets and empowers a dynamic network of “change agents” across Asia, with the goal of pursuing creative and lasting solutions to the region’s diverse development challenges. Last year, we put out the call for the inaugural 2014 participants; the 10 men and women selected are an accomplished and inspirational group of young professionals working in government, nonprofit organizations, social enterprises, and media across Asia. All under 40, the Fellows have demonstrated outstanding commitment and leadership potential within their professional fields and their larger community. The 2014 program includes a customized Leadership Training Program in partnership with Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore; an applied workshop on Asia development in the Philippines; a custom professional development plan; a mentoring program with leaders who have participated in Asia’s progress; and, a capstone two-week leadership dialogue and exchange in Washington, DC and San Francisco, coinciding with the Foundation’s 60th Anniversary.
Exchanges

LankaCorps is a unique fellowship for young professionals of Sri Lankan heritage who want to contribute to the future of this dynamic, multi-ethnic nation. The inaugural class of LankaCorps Fellows participated last year in local social and economic initiatives while gaining a deeper understanding of contemporary Sri Lanka. The newest class will also be placed with established businesses, nonprofits, and government institutions. The program was designed with two main goals: to provide young adults of Sri Lankan heritage, aged 21-29, with the opportunity to professionally and personally engage with the development of post-conflict Sri Lanka, and to help bridge the gap between how the Sri Lankan expatriate community perceives Sri Lanka and the country's current context. Fellows are provided an opportunity to influence the island's development through customized placements in their field of professional interest, and form lifetime connections with their ancestral home and independent opinions based on their personal experiences. "I'll draw on this experience for the rest of my life," said a participant. "I'll also encourage other members of the diaspora community to engage in contemporary Sri Lanka and share this same connection." LankaCorps is just one of the Foundation's many exchange programs that help foster understanding and provide opportunities to exchange views and gain direct experience with countries and regions other than their own.
Luce Scholars

The Asia Foundation has had the honor of administering in Asia the signature program of the Henry Luce Foundation—the Luce Scholars program—since it was launched in 1974 to enhance the understanding of Asia among potential leaders in Asia. Last May, at One UN Plaza in New York, members of the boards of trustees of The Asia Foundation and the Luce Foundation, along with former Luce Scholars, gathered to celebrate the program’s 40th anniversary and recognize this remarkable partnership. The program is unique among American-Asian exchanges in that it is intended for highly qualified young leaders, under the age of 29, 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. The year-long program for up to 18 scholars annually provides stipends, language training, and individualized professional placements in Asia.

Over these four decades, what has remained consistent is the commitment of the staff of both foundations in working together to identify, guide, and support generations of creative spirits and inspired young leaders. Of today’s nearly 700 alumni, many have gone on to demonstrate extraordinary and visionary leadership. Their ranks include Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, authors and artists, the world’s first female fetal surgeon, a president of the World Bank, ambassadors and senior government officials, and accomplished leaders and innovators across the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors. Dr. Michael Gilligan, president of the Luce Foundation, spoke of the continued importance of the program, even as America’s understanding of Asia has changed significantly since the 1970s: “At the Luce Foundation, we still believe Asia matters. We also continue to strongly believe that leadership matters.”
Washington, DC

The Asia Foundation’s extensive networks across the U.S. and Asia enable its Washington office to bring a wide range of perspectives from the Asia-Pacific region to Washington, especially those of emerging Asian leaders. In Washington, the Foundation is uniquely positioned to raise the profile of critical issues facing Asia and create connections between Asian government officials, academics, and civilian leaders and their American counterparts. The Foundation plays a valuable role in the donor community and U.S. policymaking circles, convening meetings and presentations that contribute Asian viewpoints and highlight the realities on the ground in today’s Asia.

In 2013, a year of great change in Myanmar, The Asia Foundation was pleased to work in partnership with Myanmar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to host two Ministry diplomats for a course on U.S. foreign policy at George Washington University. They had the opportunity to meet with distinguished trustees of the Foundation, with long records of public service and academic expertise, to discuss issues of importance to the future progress of Myanmar. The two diplomats spent a further two weeks on an observation tour across the U.S., designed to provide insights on American economic and foreign policy. For many years, the Foundation has provided similar support to young diplomats from countries across Asia, such as China, Vietnam, Thailand, and India, to visit Washington, DC—many for the first time. Foundation support makes it possible for them to take up fellowship positions with members of Congress, complete courses on foreign policy and diplomacy at prestigious universities, and attend lectures and meetings at American research and policy institutions. The Foundation’s Washington office provides many avenues for these diplomats and other rising young Asian leaders to meet their counterparts in the American diplomatic and policy communities—from citizens’ groups to government agencies—to exchange views and gain insights that help prepare them to address pressing issues facing their countries.
2013 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 Clark Nuber, P.S., independent certified public accountants. It is the opinion of the independent auditor that the financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2013, are fairly stated in all material respects in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The independent auditor’s report and complete audited financial statements and accompanying footnotes can be viewed on our website at www.asiafoundation.org.

The Asia Foundation Condensed Financial Information (in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY13</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue, Support, &amp; Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Government: Bilateral &amp; Multilateral Institutions*</td>
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<td>Foundations, Corporations, &amp; Individuals</td>
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<td>Donated Books &amp; Related Materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-operating Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue, Support &amp; Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
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<td>Programs, Grants, &amp; Related Services</td>
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<td>General Administration</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
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<td>Net Assets, beginning of year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, end of year</td>
<td>29,015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Australian Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Australian Aid, Developmental Leadership Program; Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam; Australian Labor Party; Banco Nacional de Comercio Timor-Leste; British Embassy, in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam; British High Commission, in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; Canadian International Development Agency; Danish International Development Agency; Department for International Development, United Kingdom; European Union, German Embassy, in Bangladesh; The Hague Forum for Judicial Expertise; Japan International Cooperation Agency; Korea Development Institute; Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management; Korea International Cooperation Agency; Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Afghanistan and Indonesia; New Zealand Aid; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Timor-Leste; Royal Netherlands Embassy, in Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, and Pakistan; Royal Danish Embassy, in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal; Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process in the Philippines; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; Swiss Embassy in Nepal; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Population Fund; United States Congress; United States Department of State; United States Embassy, in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, and Sri Lanka; United States Agency for International Development; The World Bank
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