Corruption in the Philippines diverts, delays, and distorts economic development, undermines the quality and credibility of democracy, and reduces the quality of life. That is so not just because of its extent but also because it comes in particularly disruptive and intractable forms. Philippine corruption is an example of the Oligarch-and-Clan syndrome—one found in countries offering significant and expanding political and economic opportunities in a setting of weak institutions, but a pattern shaped by historical, cultural and geographical influences specific to the country. Oligarch-and-Clan corruption is particularly disruptive in development terms. Because of institutional weaknesses and the power of corrupt oligarchs and their followings, it often faces ineffective opposition. More than other syndromes, it is closely linked to violence and sharply limits the state’s ability to perform such basic functions as revenue collection, maintenance of institutional foundations for the economy, law enforcement, conflict resolution, and dealing with security threats.
**October 6- Thailand: After the Elections**

The Asia Foundation is hosting a breakfast discussion with Mr. Kim McQuay, The Asia Foundation's Country Representative in Thailand. Mr. McQuay will speak about the aftermath of the Thai election, perceptions of the new government’s performance thus far, and prospects for reconciliation in the country overall.

As The Asia Foundation’s Country Representative in Thailand, Kim McQuay manages programs that promote peaceful conflict resolution, greater citizen engagement in political processes, and more responsive and transparent systems of governance. He recently completed an assignment as the Foundation’s Bangkok-based regional director for law and governance (2009-10). In this capacity, he supported Foundation field offices in the design, implementation, and assessment of program activities in law and governance and related fundraising initiatives, including criminal justice, legal education, community legal service delivery, and legal empowerment.

**Save the Date:**

**November 15- The Asia Foundation will launch “Afghanistan in 2011: A Survey of the Afghan People”**

Findings from The Asia Foundation’s 2011 national survey in Afghanistan will be presented along with expert commentary and analysis on the morning of November 15, 2011. These findings represent the seventh in the Foundation’s annual series of public opinion surveys in Afghanistan, conducted in all 34 provinces with support from USAID. The Survey will be launched on November 15 in Kabul and in Washington, where a panel discussion, co-sponsored with the U.S. Institute of Peace, will take place featuring Foundation experts.

**Recent Events:**

**September 15- The Asia Foundation hosted David Carden, the United States Ambassador to ASEAN. Ambassador Carden is the first U.S. Ambassador exclusively responsible for representing U.S. interests in this multilateral organization, a signal of the administration’s strong commitment to the region. The Asia Foundation event included a wide range of participants drawn from civil society, academia, and embassies from ASEAN countries. In his remarks, Ambassador Carden emphasized that both the United States and The Asia Foundation are committed to maintaining a close link with the region now and in the future. Highlighting the government’s commitment to ASEAN, Ambassador Carden affirmed that President Obama will be present at the upcoming East Asia Summit. The United States government hopes to grow institutional structures and habits of cooperation in Asia through ASEAN and the East Asia Summit. Ambassador Carden underscored his interest in working within ASEAN to advance good governance and a strong civil society within the association.**
Highlights from Asia:

The Asia Foundation Celebrates International Literacy Day

The Asia Foundation’s Books for Asia celebrated International Literacy Day with events in 14 countries. In Pakistan, books were donated and a writing competition was held in the Swat Valley, Punjab, and Karachi. Forty-nine orphanages received donations from the Asia Foundation office in Mongolia. In Bangladesh, 25 colleges and schools for the children of laborers received books. A full-day celebration at the presidential palace took place in Timor-Leste.

Publications of Interest:

Philanthropy in Vietnam

A research project on philanthropy in Vietnam conducted by The Vietnam Asia Pacific Economic Center of Hanoi, and supported by The Asia Foundation. This sociological study captures a snapshot of the current state of philanthropic giving in the country, along with the motivations for and challenges of such activities.