

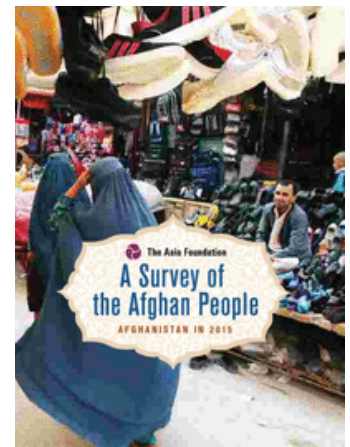


## December 2015

**In this issue:** Afghanistan, Survey of the Afghan People, Myanmar, LankaCorps, Korea, the Philippines, Governance and Law, Women's Empowerment, Gender-Based Violence, and Cambodia.

### Recent Events

**November 19** – The Asia Foundation released findings from Afghanistan in 2015: A Survey of the Afghan People - the broadest, most comprehensive public opinion poll in the country, covering all 34 provinces, with candid data gleaned from face-to-face interviews with more than 9,500 Afghan citizens. This marked the 11th in the Foundation's series of surveys in Afghanistan; taken together they provide a barometer of Afghan public opinion over time. To download the survey and explore our data tools, go to our interactive microsite.



### Coming Up

**February** – In February, Kim Ninh, The Asia Foundation's Country Representative for Myanmar, and colleagues will take part in a panel event focused on Myanmar's prospects for governance reforms, progress in the peace process, and economic implications in the country's post-election context. Among other issues, the presenters will address the administration systems of ethnic armed actors and how they relate to those of government and share findings from the report Ethnic Armed Conflict and Territorial Administration in Myanmar.

### Support the LankaCorps Fellowship Program



LankaCorps is a unique opportunity for young leaders of Sri Lankan heritage to professionally engage in social, cultural, and economic development activities in Sri Lanka. The program aims to foster the involvement and understanding of young members of the expatriate Sri Lankan community who have limited in-depth experience with the country of their heritage. Visit our website to learn more about this year's fellows and support LankaCorps.



## **In the News**

### **Korea's Leadership in Climate Action**

In a departure from previous UN climate talks, the Conference of the Parties (COP21) that took place in Paris aimed to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change. This imperative focused attention on the “intended nationally determined contributions” (INDCs) that each country could make to mitigating climate change. South Korea – the world’s 14th largest economy but the 8th largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> – pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions across all economic sectors by 37 percent from the business-as-usual level by 2030. While some have criticized such commitments for not going far enough, over the past few years, Korea has emerged as a regional leader in climate change planning and response within Asia, and as such has significant influence in shaping global climate action. Read more about this issue from Toral Patel, The Asia Foundation’s program officer with the Environment Program, and Sunmee Lee, The Asia Foundation’s program officer in Korea, on our blog.

## **Notes from the Field**

### **Asia Foundation and Asian Development Bank Hold Open Government Partnership Workshop**

On November 23-24, twenty-eight Asia Foundation delegates participated in the Governance Cooperation Fund – Open Government Partnership Knowledge Exchange and Learning Event at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters in Manila, Philippines. The event, which was co-designed by The Asia Foundation and ADB, brought together government and civil society representatives from seven countries in Asia to exchange knowledge, good practices, and innovative approaches on a range of open government issues, including: asset disclosure, right to information, transparent budgeting, and open data. Foundation officials were joined by experts from ADB, The World Bank, USAID, KINERJA, and the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Read more here.

### **#GBVchat Tweetchat Relay**

On December 10, 2015, The Asia Foundation, University Research Co., World Vision, Knowledge for Health (K4Health), Chemonics, Banyan Global, ACDI/VOCA, Promundo and WI-HER participated in an online conversation, “Promising Approaches to Respond to Gender-Based Violence” to mark the final day of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign (#16Days). The tweetchat relay addressed a range of topics, including evidence-based approaches to end violence against women, the intersection of economic empowerment and violence, engaging men and boys to prevent gender-based violence, and responding to violence against girls, among other exciting topics. Read more here.

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.