



January 2016

In this issue: Thailand, the Philippines, Nepal, Conflict, Myanmar, 2015 in Review, China, Indonesia, and Working Politically in Practice paper series

Upcoming Events

March 1 – Dr. Srisompob Jitpiromsri, consultant for The Asia Foundation, and John Brandon, Senior Director for Regional Cooperation Programs will discuss monitoring conflict and peace in Southern Thailand. Read more on the Foundations’ work in Thailand [here](#).

March 2 – The Asia Foundation’s Country Representative for the Philippines, Steven Rood will provide insight and analysis on the upcoming elections in the Philippines and the ongoing Bangasamoro Peace Process in Mindanao. Click [here](#) for more information on our work in the Philippines.

March 2 – In a separate event, George Varughese, The Asia Foundation’s Country Representative for Nepal, will offer his perspective on the mixed and divisive reactions to the new constitution in Nepal which continue to fuel ongoing political turmoil and undermine progress in the country.

March 3 – Patrick Barron, the Asia Foundation’s Regional Director for Conflict and Development, Steven Rood, Country Representative for the Philippines, George Varughese, Country Representative for Nepal, and will discuss the fourth paper in the Working Politically in Practice paper series entitled Beyond the Toolkit: Supporting Peace Processes in Asia.

March 16 – 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.

In the News

Asia’s Biggest Issues in 2016? Experts Weigh In

In the last year, Asia experienced both highs and lows: historic elections in Myanmar and Sri Lanka, devastating earthquakes in South Asia, booming growth in India and slumping economies in China and Mongolia, anti-government protests in Malaysia, South Korea, and beyond, aging populations juxtaposed with unprecedented youth bulges, a deteriorating security environment in Afghanistan, and pollution, lots of pollution across the region. Written by some of our leading field experts, discover the issues facing Asian nations [here](#).

In Photos: 2015 Year in Review



In an innovative community mapping initiative, the Foundation partnered with the City Municipality and ger area residents to use high-quality imagery to map the availability and accessibility of basic services in 87 khorroos, and to develop a website where the maps can be used as an advocacy and planning tool.

Photo: Tenzing Paljor

China's First Law Against Domestic Violence: It's No Longer a Private Matter

Last month, China passed its first-ever national law against domestic violence, the result of a decade-long campaign driven by the country's civil society groups. The new law, which goes into effect on March 1, takes a significant step forward from existing legislation by legally defining domestic violence as physical and psychological abuse of family members and cohabitating non-family members. There are still gaps – it does not cover divorced couples or former partners, nor does it address sexual abuse or economic control. But the law is groundbreaking for addressing what has long been deemed a private matter in China. Read more from Chen Tingting, The Asia Foundation's program officer for women's empowerment in China, [here](#).

Notes from the Field

Local Pathways to Disability-Inclusive Governance in Indonesia

“Nothing About Us Without Us” has become a familiar slogan used by the international disability movement and relies on the principle of full participation for all. However, in Indonesia, where people with disabilities still face enormous barriers, we're just recently starting to see this slogan being put into practice. Read more from Natalia Warat, program officer for The Asia Foundation in Indonesia, [here](#).

Publication of Interest

Beyond the Toolkit: Supporting Peace Processes in Asia

Beyond the Toolkit: Supporting Peace Processes in Asia posits that existing peace process support models do not reflect what we know about the nature of conflict, how it ends, and how peace processes are sustained and peace consolidated. The new paper, by Asia Foundation experts Lisa Denney and Patrick Barron, highlights a more politically-informed approach to supporting peace, including examples from the Foundation's activities in the Philippines, Myanmar and Nepal. This is the fourth paper in the Working Politically in Practice paper series. 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.