



February 2018

In this issue: Lotus Leadership Awards, Gender-Based Violence, Afghanistan, 2018 Development Fellows, Protecting Pakistan's Children, the Philippines, and Countering Violent Extremism

Upcoming Events

San Francisco, February 21 — The Asia Foundation will recognize Japan's First Lady Akie Abe for her commitment to advancing women's empowerment in Japan and Asia, notably in Myanmar at the inaugural [Lotus Leadership Awards Dinner in San Francisco](#). [Colorful Girls](#) will also receive a Lotus Leadership Award for empowering adolescent girls in Myanmar. Learn more about the Asia Foundation's [Lotus Circle](#).

March 6 — The Foundation will sponsor an event on ***Gender-Based Violence in Asia: Prevalence, Protection, and Perspectives from the Field***, where a panel including [Sofia Shakil](#), Asia Foundation's country representative from [Pakistan](#), will discuss gender-based violence, particularly in conflict-affected settings, and share findings from new Foundation studies on [The State of Conflict and Violence in Asia](#) and [Global and Regional Trends in Women's Legal Protection Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment](#). Read more about our programs on [Women's Empowerment](#).

Recent Event

January 17 — In the aftermath of the Marawi siege and ongoing peace process challenges, [Sam Chittick](#), The Asia Foundation's country representative in the [Philippines](#), provided his on-the-ground perspective on the ongoing conflicts and discussed some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead during the event on *Prospects for Peace and Stability in Mindanao*.

Discussing Afghanistan's Future

[Advisor to Ashraf Ghani Mohammad Qayoumi & Karl Eikenberry Discuss Afghanistan's Future](#)



Karl Eikenberry in conversation with Mohammad Qayoumi.

Recently, former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan and Asia Foundation trustee, [Karl Eikenberry](#), joined Mohammad Qayoumi, chief advisor to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, for a conversation in San Francisco discussing the current sense of normalcy and planning in Afghanistan, the country's greatest assets, its democracy-building and security challenges, as well as its success in improving education levels within the country. Read about the Asia Foundations programs on [Conflict and Fragile Conditions](#), [Economic Opportunity](#) and [International Cooperation](#).

Announcing 2018 Asia Foundation Development Fellows

In January, the Asia Foundation selected its 2018 Development Fellows, representing 11 Asian countries and a wide range of disciplines including governance, law, nonprofit organization, technology, finance, corporate social responsibility (CSR),

social enterprise, and journalism. The [Development Fellows program](#) is at the heart of The Asia Foundation's mission, bringing exceptional individuals into a powerful network of emerging leaders working to improve lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Click [here](#) to learn more about our 2018 Development Fellows.

In the News

[Legislation Alone Cannot Protect Pakistan's Children](#)

Recently, Pakistan erupted in protest over the rape and murder of [a 7-year-old](#) in Kasur. [Pakistan's parliament passed the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2016](#), making offenses of child sexual abuse and pornography non-compoundable, non-bailable, and punishable with prison sentences up to seven years, and/or fines up to 500,000 rupees, following widespread protests in response to [media reports](#) of an organized gang in Kasur accused of sexually exploiting and filming approximately 300 children. Despite this, almost all of those accused in the Kasur case of 2015 have since been acquitted due to alleged witness intimidation and other social taboos and destructive notions of honor that perpetuate injustice. The Punjab Government has also taken steps to improve public safety over the past few years, even introducing child protection units in majority districts and installing closed circuit TV cameras throughout the province, but have not helped reduce the number of child abuse cases. These examples highlight that legislation on paper, independent of effective implementation and provisioning of services, simply provides a "semblance" of safety and by itself, cannot protect Pakistan's children. The collective responsibility of more than just the law enforcement agencies is necessary to ensure the safety of girls. Read about our programs in [Pakistan](#), and learn more about our work on [Empowering Women](#), and [Law and Justice](#).



Since the introduction of new legislation in 2016, there has been an increase in the number of child abuse cases in Pakistan reported daily. Photo/Conor Ashleigh

Notes from the Field

[To Realize Duterte's 'Golden Age of Infrastructure' in Philippines, Better Roads a Must](#)



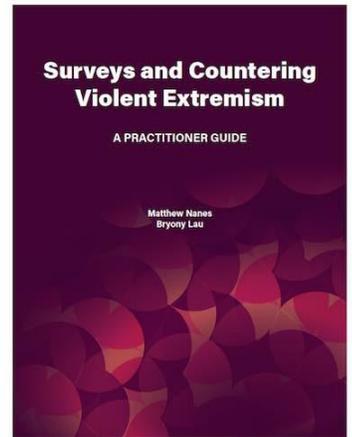
Heavy traffic jam in both directions along a major road in Quiapo, Manila, Philippines. An average city commuter spends over an hour stuck in traffic jams like this. Photo/Conor Ashleigh

The Philippines ranked 56th out of 137 countries in the World Economic Forum's latest [Global Competitiveness Index](#), with the lack of infrastructure investments significantly undermining the country's ability to compete globally. President Duterte's "[Build, Build, Build](#)" initiative pledges to usher in a "golden age of infrastructure" in the next five years but [much needs to be done](#) in addressing inequity in development and resource allocation at the local level. Since 2011, the [Coalitions for Change](#) (CfC) program, aimed to more closely link public infrastructure investment with local economic priorities, has leveraged a total of \$1.9 billion to fund 298 roads and infrastructure projects identified by local business associations in partnership with provincial governments. Last year's revisions to the guidelines of the Local Road Network Development Plan (LRNDP) encourages locally driven decision-making and priorities which is a major step in ensuring that local economic development needs are not neglected. Read more about our programs in the [Philippines](#).

Publication of Interest

[Surveys and Countering Violent Extremism](#)

This guide will acquaint development practitioners, those funding surveys, international and local NGOs, consultants and think tanks with the use of surveys in preventing or countering violent extremism (CVE). Surveys are a powerful and flexible tool with many potential applications to CVE. This guide will help practitioners ensure that their surveys yield accurate, useful data about violent extremism while gathering information ethically and safely. It was produced with the support of the Governance, Fragility, and Water Branch of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Read more about our work in conflict areas [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.