



MARCH 2018

Dear Lotus Circle Advisors, Members, and Friends,



Investing in women and girls produces exponential returns.

Discover how our programs align with these values and the impact we have had in one year, with our partners, to help women and girls across Asia to advance their rights, voice, and leadership.

I invite you to read our Year in Review to explore the considerable impact we've made together in the lives of women and girls across Asia.

Warm regards,
Jane

HIGHLIGHTS

The Asia Foundation and Fondation CHANEL launch AccelerateGrowth in South Korea



The Asia Foundation is pleased to announce it has received support from Paris-based Fondation CHANEL under a brand-new AccelerateGrowth initiative aimed at enhancing opportunities for women's entrepreneurship in Gyeonggi Province, South Korea.



Despite the province's high level of industrial development, the unemployment rate of women is the second highest in the country at 4.6%.

Under this new collaboration, The Asia Foundation is launching a one-year research project with Gyeonggi Family & Women's Research Institute that will examine the factors

that inhibit or facilitate the creation of women-owned companies in the province. Following the research phase, the Foundation's Korea office plans to partner with the Gyeonggi Job Foundation on a series of targeted training programs and activities with job centers in four cities in the region.

Read more about the partnership from [TAF](#) and [Fondation CHANEL](#).

Lotus Circle's Private Tour of Christie's, New York



On March 16, the Lotus Circle Advisors and Members joined a private preview of highlights from the Chinese Works of Art and Rockefeller Collection auctions at Christie's, New York. Works on view included Song Ceramics from an important

Japanese private collection and top examples of classical Chinese Furniture. Also on view were highlights from the David and Peggy Rockefeller's collection of Asian Art and other categories of work. The tour was led by Robert Mowry, Senior Consultant of Asian Art at Christie's.

To attend the Lotus Circle Salons and Special Events in New York, please contact Nikita Desai: nikita.desai@asiafoundation.org.

Lotus Circle Salon at AIG Innovation Center, San Francisco



On March 5, the Foundation hosted a Lotus Circle networking event at AIG's Innovation Center, in San Francisco. Lotus Circle Advisors Lisa Lum, Faye Sahai, and Lucy Lee joined other potential Advisors and Members, TAF Staff, and business and community leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area.

For more information on Bay Area Lotus Circle events, please contact Melissa Weakley: melissa.weakley@asiafoundation.org.

Women advocate for peace in Mindanao, Philippines



Women and children are disproportionately impacted by violence, hunger, and poverty in Mindanao, Philippines. This spurred Bangsamoro women to take action to establish peace in their communities. To support them, The Asia Foundation, in partnership with Women Organizations Movement of the Bangsamoro, launched the

CARE Project—funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. As a result, a growing number of women have participated in Senate and Congressional hearings on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), which would help solve the decades-long violence in Mindanao. Women participated in cities across the island and will be involved in the

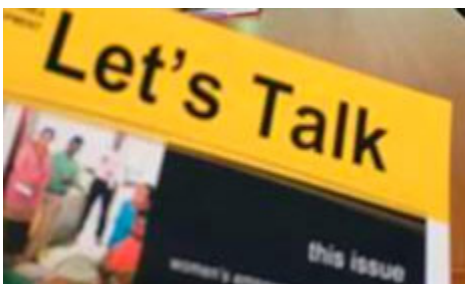
upcoming bicameral conference of the two Houses to advocate for the passage of the BBL.

These women have transitioned from passive members of their community to significant voices in the quest for peace. Importantly, their role in addressing violent extremism is now recognized by their family, local leaders, and other sectors.

International Women's Day in Mongolia and Sri Lanka



To jumpstart women entrepreneurs in fast-urbanizing Mongolia, The Asia Foundation has been instrumental in organizing The Women's Business Center (WBC)—an incubator and work space for women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in Ulaanbaatar, the capital. On International Women's Day, the WBC hosted a “Women in Business” networking event to connect entrepreneurs with the private sector. More than 400 entrepreneurs and individuals from the private sector attended.



The Asia Foundation's Gender Committee in Sri Lanka launched a Gender Action Plan for the Sri Lanka office and the first edition of the quarterly

Let's Talk bulletin, which presents key information on gender and social justice. Staff hosted a Power Walk, guiding a discussion on how to adapt program strategies to rebalance power relations and promote social justice. Then everyone celebrated with refreshments provided by a Ministry of Agriculture women's entrepreneurial initiative.

COMING UP

Save the Date: 6th Annual Young Lotus Soiree on May 17



The 6th Annual Young Lotus Soiree to be held on Thursday, May 17 at Klein Sun Gallery in NYC.

For more information, please contact Nikita

Desai: nikita.desai@asiafoundation.org.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Missed the February edition of Lotus Letter? [View it here](#).

The Lotus Letter photo (top of email) depicts The Asia Foundation's mental health and psychosocial training sessions held with Counselling Assistants in Sri Lanka. Image courtesy of Gemunu Amarasinghe.

