EMERGING LEADERSHIP FOR ASIA’S FUTURE

In these times of rapid change and extraordinary development challenges throughout Asia, the need for creative, inspired, and transformative leadership has never been more imperative. To address this need, The Asia Foundation has created the Asia Foundation Development Fellows program, an initiative designed to identify, nurture, and support dedicated next-generation leaders across Asia. The program aims to strengthen and enhance the ability of carefully selected leaders and changemakers to advance Asia’s social, economic, and political development through forward-looking initiatives and policy reforms.

Leveraging The Asia Foundation’s rich 60-year history of development experience, the Asia Foundation Development Fellows program targets and invests in an extraordinary body of young and emerging Asian professionals – NGO and civil society leaders, government officials and policymakers, social entrepreneurs, journalists, environmentalists, and academics. The various components of the program create a nexus of different disciplines, working environments, professional experiences, cultures, and country contexts through which development practitioners and professionals can effectively build practical skills and enhance leadership capabilities while deepening bonds of regional and international perspective, understanding, and commitment.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Asia Foundation Development Fellows program is designed to be a multifaceted experience, enhancing leadership skills, Asian development knowledge, professional networks, and international exposure for Asian professionals. The program also provides the flexibility for Fellows to custom-tailor their own professional development component and to stay in their current occupations while participating in the program’s rigorous modules. The program is comprised of the following five components:

1) Leadership Training Program offered in partnership with the Korea Development Institute (KDI) School of Public Policy and Management in South Korea;
2) Workshop on Asian Development, held each year in a different Asian nation;
3) A two-week leadership dialogue and study tour opportunity in the U.S.;
4) A flexible professional development stipend/award of US$5,000; and
5) A mentoring component allowing Fellows to tap into The Asia Foundation’s extensive human resources and thematic expertise.

The application period starts in the fall of each year. A selection committee, comprised of distinguished specialists, then makes its final decision at the beginning of the following year.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

An award of up to $5,000 will be made available to each of the selected Asia Foundation Development Fellows. This cash award will allow each Fellow the opportunity to design and shape individualized plans to further their leadership skills and relevant professional experience in areas of particular importance to their career growth and potential. Each Development Fellow will be asked to develop a personalized, year-long work plan that may involve such areas as enrollment in specialized training programs or short courses, language study, travel to attend key regional forums or workshops, or engagement in a series of other enrichment activities to further their leadership and professional capabilities.

MENTORING & NETWORK BUILDING

Building on the strength and local capacity of The Asia Foundation, the Asia Foundation Development Fellows program offers a mentoring component that is tailored around the particular background and professional interests of the Development Fellows. Fellows will also become part of an active and engaged alumni network, supported by the biennial Forum on Leadership for Asia’s Future. All current and former fellows are invited to discuss shared development challenges, build and deepen networks of support, promote knowledge sharing, recognize achievements, and highlight creative avenues for innovation and collaboration.

TO APPLY FOR OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ASIA FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM, VISIT: ASIAFOUNDATION.ORG/DEVELOPMENTFELLOWS