



November 2018

In this issue: #GBVchat Tweetchat Relay, Afghanistan in 2018, Gender Findings of the 2018 Afghan Survey, Advancing Property Rights in the Philippines, Pakistan, Women's Entrepreneurship, 2018 YSEALI Summit, Mongolia, and Inclusive Growth in Bangladesh

Upcoming Events

November 29— The [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) is a global campaign which runs annually from November 25th (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day). The Asia Foundation invites you to join us for our fifth annual global Tweetchat relay to mark the 16 Days of Activism ([#16days](#)). This year's theme is "Ending Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work" and the Tweetchat will take place on Twitter from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Follow the hashtag [#GBVchat](#) to join the conversation.

December 4— The Asia Foundation will launch its 14th annual "[Survey of the Afghan People: Afghanistan in 2018](#)" - 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 15,000 Afghan citizens. [Click to RSVP](#). Learn about the Asia Foundation's work in [Afghanistan](#).

December 6— The panel discussion on "[Women and Gender Equality in Afghanistan: Key Findings from the 2018 Afghan Survey](#)," co-sponsored with the [U.S.-Afghan Women's Council](#), will highlight the gender dimensions of the Asia Foundation's 14th annual [Survey of the Afghan People](#) that will be released that week. Please contact dc.events@asiafoundation.org or call 202-588-9420 to register for the event. Read more about the Foundations' work on [women's empowerment](#).

Technology and Development

[This Land Is Our Land: How Drones Can Advance Property Rights in the Philippines](#)



The Asia Foundation's Jaime Faustino (right) with pioneers in drone-assisted surveying in the Philippines. Photo/The Asia Foundation

Approximately 12 million parcels of land have no legal titles in the Philippines, making it difficult for owners to get loans for home improvements or to pass down their property to their heirs. This lack of legal proof of ownership also means that residents are classified as "temporary settlers" who can be driven out of their homes with little notice and no compensation. Apart from the cost to individual well-being, the Philippines' land-titling problem exerts a significant drag on the country's development as well. A subdivision survey, required to be submitted to the government for approval of a land title, can be the single greatest obstacle for many citizens, making up about 61 percent of the total cost of titling a residential lot. As a way around this development logjam, The Asia Foundation's Technology for Property Rights project, organized in partnership with the [Omidyar Network](#) and the [Foundation for Economic Freedom](#), is pursuing both technological solutions and policy reform to improve land administration in the Philippines using a new survey technology—aerial drones. Learn about the Foundation's programs in the [Philippines](#), and on [technology and development](#).

Notes from the Field

[Dismantling Pakistan's Tribal Areas](#)

Pakistan's government put an [end to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas \(FATA\)](#), a century-old special status given to seven tribal districts that share borders with war-torn Afghanistan, by merging the tribal agencies with the neighboring province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in May 2018. This merger represents an opportunity and a new hope for peace and prosperity in a region plagued by poor governance, continuing insurgency and deprivation. However, several challenges lie ahead, including the restoration of peace and the establishment of durable political structures critical for governance and rule of law to be productive, the unresolved issues related to the old policing system in FATA, and the proper implementation of the 10-year development plan, which are all dependent on the security situation. [An earlier version](#) of this article originally appeared in Hilal Magazine. Read more about the Asia Foundation's programs on [strengthening governance](#), and other country-programs in [Pakistan](#).



Photo/FATA Development Authority

[No Silver Bullet for Women Entrepreneurs](#)



Women entrepreneurs receive training at the new Women's Business Center. In the first two months of operation, a total of 721 services were provided.

Women's entrepreneurship is a top regional concern in Asia, where women own more than half of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in some countries. However, their profits and growth are constrained relative to their male counterparts. The new report on [Emerging Lessons on Women's Entrepreneurship in Asia and the Pacific](#) highlights the challenges to women's entrepreneurship, such as the lack of access to credit, which is an almost universally cited barrier in virtually every country, but remedies are far from universal, often requiring nuanced understanding of the diverse ecosystems in which women work. Formulating universally accepted definitions of "woman-owned" or "woman-led" business, more sophisticated methodologies for determining what to measure, as well as both sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data can help us better understand the specific conditions that prevail in each country and region, and lead to effective solutions. Read more blogposts on women's entrepreneurship [here](#).

In the News

[Announcing the participants of the 2018 YSEALI Summit](#)

The Asia Foundation announced the participants of the [2018 Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative \(YSEALI\) Summit](#), a program of the U.S. Department of State that will take place December 3-5, 2018 in Singapore, bringing together 150 participants from ASEAN countries and the United States. This year's Summit, which also marks its fifth anniversary, is based on the theme "The United States and ASEAN: Partners in Growth and Innovation" will showcase innovative approaches to economic cooperation and growth by U.S. companies, organizations, and institutions present in ASEAN, allowing young innovators and entrepreneurs from both the United States and ASEAN to connect with each other and with participating experts. Learn about [YSEALI](#) and the Asia Foundation's programs on [leadership and exchange](#).



[Mongolia: Increasing Citizen Participation in Local Decision-Making](#)



Approximately 60 percent of the city's population lives in Ulaanbaatar's peripheral ger area, a mass of informal settlements that surrounds the urban center. Photo/Miroslav Hodeček

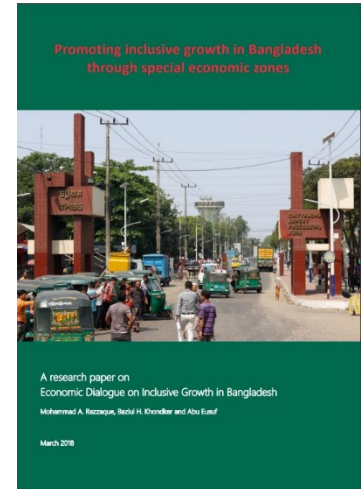
Mongolia's Integrated Budget Law, the country's first law to prescribe public consultation in government decision-making, came into effect in January 2013 and led to the creation of the Local Development Fund (LDF), the only forum for citizens to directly voice their opinion on local expenditures. Despite providing a great opportunity for participatory democracy in Mongolia, LDF's impact has been blunted by widespread unfamiliarity with the law and its provisions, including loopholes that can potentially thwart the LDF's public-participation provisions. Since 2015, [The Asia Foundation's Urban Governance Project \(UGP\)](#), funded by the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#), has been working with the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar to improve the LDF project cycle, streamline the management of citizen input, and increase the transparency of LDF decision-

making. Development of the LDF Citizen Input Application by the UGP has provided citizens access to community maps, which pinpoint the location, budget, and contractor of LDF-funded projects, as well as their district's LDF questionnaire that can be filled out directly in the app. Learn more about the Asia Foundation's programs in [Mongolia](#).

Publication of Interest

[Promoting Inclusive Growth in Bangladesh through Special Economic Zones](#)

Eradicating poverty by accelerating economic growth and generating employment opportunities through industrialization is a key policy priority for Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has decided to establish 100 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for creating 10 million jobs and generating an additional \$40 billion of exports. By offering attractive fiscal and financial incentives, and serviced industrial plots, these economic zones are expected to mobilize investments from both domestic and foreign sources. The Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh intends to use SEZs as a policy tool for inclusive growth by promoting development in lagging regions within the country. Read more about the Asia Foundation's programs on [expanding economic opportunity](#), and other country-programs in [Bangladesh](#).



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.