



December 2018

In this issue: Afghanistan in 2018, Gender Equality in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste's Nabilan Program, Myanmar, Increasing Environmental Resilience in Indonesia, YSEALI Summit, Inclusive Elections in the Philippines

Recent Events

December 4— The Asia Foundation, in cooperation with the [US Institute of Peace](#), sponsored the Washington DC launch of 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. Watch the full event [here](#), and learn more about the Foundation’s work in [Afghanistan](#). The microsite, film, infographics, news release and FAQs can be accessed [here](#).

December 6— A 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](#), highlighted the gender dimensions of the Asia Foundation’s 14th annual [Survey of the Afghan People](#). Click [here](#) to watch the event, and read more about the Foundations’ work on [women’s empowerment](#).

Technology and Development

[The Asia Foundation Timor-Leste’s Nabilan Program and Australian Government Launch Hamahon ‘Giving Shelter’ App and Media Kit](#)

The Asia Foundation and the Timor-Leste Government launched a new support services information app called [Hamahon](#) (“giving shelter”), which helps police, service providers, and women find contact information for support services, and a media sensitization kit—only available in Tetum, to assist journalists in covering violence against women and children through a respectful and dignified lens. These resources were developed by the Nabilan Program, an Australian aid initiative implemented by The Asia Foundation on behalf of the Australian Government. Read about the Foundation’s work in [technology and development](#), and other country programs in [Timor-Leste](#).

Notes from the Field

[Leapfrogging and Sidestepping: Outliers Spark Municipal Reform in Myanmar](#)



Myanmar's third national Horizontal Learning Workshop, a project of [The Asia Foundation](#) and the [Renaissance Institute](#), provided an opportunity for mayors, ministers, and municipal bureaucrats from across the country to showcase local reforms and learn from each other's successes, missteps, and failures. The Mandalay City Development Committee's (MCDC's) traffic control demonstration of the use of a new technology to optimize traffic flows across the city presented a graphic example of the power of data, and how experimental approaches can advance reforms when no simple solutions are apparent. The use of new technology, combined with Facebook, has taken on a distinctly Burmese flavor as MCDC has been able to essentially sidestep the stubborn problem of weak traffic enforcement by crowd-sourcing and introducing other forms of deterrence. Other innovations using technology include developing a new mobile application—*MyoTaw*, that allows the public to directly communicate their concerns to municipal authorities and to pay their municipal taxes and fees, and the adoption of *Myankhon* (Fast Tax), a computer- and tablet-based mobile application that has streamlined tax collection. Learn about the Asia Foundation's programs in [Myanmar](#).

[Indonesia: Hearing Women's Voices in Managing Natural Resources](#)

Women in Indonesia are still too often excluded from local land-management decisions. Despite revisions to its national Social Forestry program (Perhutanan Sosial) to recognize women as heads of households, and other environmental justice programs such as that of The Asia Foundation's SETAPAK 2 program which is dedicated to building women's confidence and capacity to make their voices heard on issues of land and forest governance, both locally and nationally, stories of women driving change in their local communities are rare but essential to meaningful reform. Learn about the Foundation's work on [increasing environmental resilience](#), and other country programs in [Indonesia](#).



Minister Siti Nurbaya Baka of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry with SETAPAK's local champions.

In the News

[YSEALI Summit – Innovation Slam Competition Winners Announced](#)

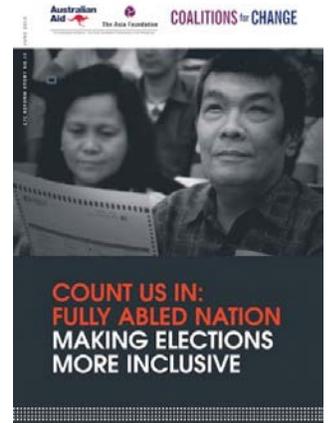


From December 3-5 in Singapore, The Asia Foundation organized and implemented the annual [YSEALI Summit](#), a program sponsored by U.S. Department of State. After 3 days of intensive collaborative group work, drop-in mentoring by experienced entrepreneurs, and coaching from industry experts, representatives from each of 15 competing groups took the stage to pitch their projects before a panel of 6 judges, themselves experts in entrepreneurship. The grand prize winner of the Innovation Slam competition was ASEAN Unboxed, an ecommerce and storytelling platform that seeks to give access to the best products that come from 11 ASEAN countries, followed by iSpot, a mobile application that will help the LGBTQ+ community spot and review inclusive and safe environments and business establishments. Learn more about the Foundation's [leadership and exchange programs](#).

Publication of Interest

[Fully Abled Nation – Making Elections More Inclusive](#)

People with disabilities face many challenges that make it difficult for them to cast their votes. Polling places usually do not have the appropriate facilities and election staff that can help people with disabilities vote conveniently and with dignity. This story traces the efforts of Fully Abled Nation (FAN), a multi-sectoral coalition, towards making Philippine elections more inclusive. Working with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and partners, FAN's efforts contributed to the significant increase of both voter participation and polling places dedicated for people with disabilities in the 2016 national elections. Learn about The Asia Foundation's programs on [elections](#), and other country programs in the [Philippines](#).



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.