In Asia, political violence and organized conflicts continue to be fueled by the contraction of democratic space, and violent extremism—often exacerbated by online disinformation. Long-term fragility has been accelerated and compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this event, Sidney Jones reflects on the second edition of Conflict and Fragility in Asia & the Creation of APEC Regions — drivers of development in the Covid-19 era. In this event recording, Jones and guests discuss the area’s current political landscape and the challenges posed by the pandemic in part. Jones also highlights the potential for increased regional cooperation and increased digitalization to support development. 

The Covid-19 crisis has had mixed impacts on Myanmar’s disparate conflicts and the ongoing peace process. International support is critical for not only mitigating the potentially devastating long-term effects of the pandemic on nascent livelihoods and governance systems but also to ensure that vital resources are not diverted away from peacebuilding work. Meanwhile, agencies supporting the pandemic response should ensure that they adapt to account for conflict tensions and the hugely varied local conditions across Myanmar. Learn more about our work in Myanmar.

The Asia Foundation has put into place a plan that prioritizes the safety of our staff and programs, given the challenging security environment in Afghanistan. The Asia Foundation has long been committed to advancing the peace and development interests of the Afghan people. 

The recent Virtual Event: Five Lessons from Mongolia’s Pandemic Hotline Project are now available. A strong and functional public health system is critical to respond to pandemics and other crises. This project are now available. A strong and functional public health system is critical to respond to pandemics and other crises. This project is a key element of our work in Mongolia and reflects our broader advocacy of the critical importance of health care as an investment in human capital and national development. 

We do not use our fields of expertise as a platform to promote any political ideology, nor do we advocate for any political party, candidate, or candidate’s policies. Our positions reflect policies and programs that advance the rule of law, justice, and accountability, as well as foster sustainable and inclusive development. The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across Asia. Our mission is to advance ideas and experiences that create lasting change in communities and countries throughout the region. 

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