



The Asia Foundation



Given the challenging security environment in Afghanistan, The Asia Foundation has put into place a plan that prioritizes the safety of our staff and their families. We are suspending activities at this time. With a deep and enduring commitment to Afghanistan's development, we will continue efforts to contribute to as a positive path forward for the people of Afghanistan as possible.

Donate now to the [Afghanistan Rapid Relief Fund](#).

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## EVENTS

**Recent Virtual Event - [Leaders on the Frontlines Awards](#)**

NOVEMBER 9, 2021 - Ban Ki-moon joined The Asia Foundation to award 2021 Leaders on the Frontlines: Leaders for a Better World awards. The Asia Foundation honored Eun Mee Kim, Ph.D., President of Ewha Womans University, Korea with the Chang-Lin Tien Distinguished Leadership Award and Yo-Yo Ma, Founder of Silkroad with the President's Leadership Award. Dr. Rajiv Shah accepted the Philanthropic Leadership Award on behalf of The Rockefeller Foundation. The event also featured the 2020-2021 [Asia Foundation Development Fellows](#), a new generation of leaders creating change and impact.



## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

[Asia Foundation and APEC Announce Winner of APEC Digital Prosperity Award](#)

The APEC Digital Prosperity Award recognizes innovative digital products or applications that have the potential to increase prosperity and inclusive growth. This year's winner, the APEC Traveler App would make it possible for travelers to confirm their COVID-19 vaccination status at APEC country border crossing and immigration checkpoints using a QR code. This innovative App would help support the tourism sector, which is essential for economic recovery in Asia. Learn more about the Foundation's work with [technology and development](#).



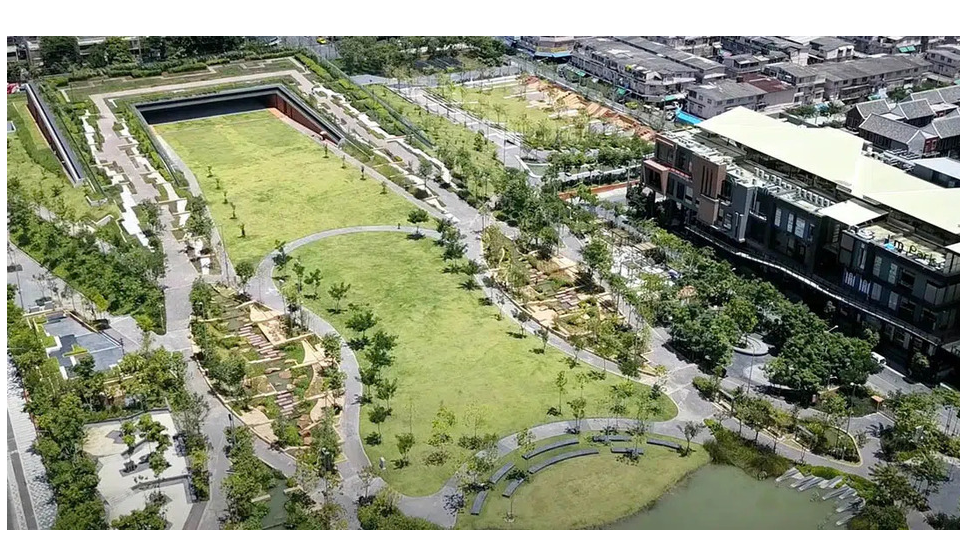
APEC TRAVELLER APP TEAM

[Cambodia: Water, Gender, and Poverty Collide in Cambodian Watershed](#)

This episode of InAsia highlights the recent study of the intersection of water access, poverty, and gender in the Stung Chinit Watershed in Cambodia. This research includes a survey that documents the gender difference in access to irrigation water and analyzes the ways in which solutions to water inequality lie at the crossroads of infrastructure and gender. Learn more about The Foundation's work on [environment and climate action](#), as well as [women's empowerment and gender equality](#).

[Mobilizing Climate-Resilient Infrastructure in Asia](#)

Asia's current infrastructure largely fails to stand up to increasingly frequent extreme weather events, with low and middle-income countries the most affected. As Asian countries consider new infrastructure development options to boost post-Covid economies, the big question is whether they will invest in infrastructure that is resilient to disasters and climate impacts, provides tangible social, economic, and environmental benefits, and strategically contributes to a transition to low-carbon development. Learn more about the Foundation's work on [environment and climate action](#).



With its water-capturing design, Chulalongkorn Centennial Park, designed by Asia Foundation 2016 Development Fellow Kotchakorn Voraakhom in Bangkok is a model of climate-resilient infrastructure for Asia.

## PUBLICATIONS

[Nepal: Assessment of Trade and Competitiveness Barriers to Nepal's Export Sector](#)

Nepal's balance of trade continues to be plagued by the problem of ever-growing imports but stagnant exports. This assessment paints an overall picture of exports by comparatively examining the direction of foreign trade, cost of trade, and logistics performance across neighboring countries. It then illustrates both tariff and nontariff barriers, cross-examines the gaps and constraints to export potential, and provides recommendations on much-needed policy reform and interventions. Learn more about our work to foster [inclusive economic growth](#).

[Timor-Leste: Covid-19 Survey Round 7 – Development Letters \(July–September 2021 Issue\)](#)

The most recent round of the Timor-Leste Covid-19 Survey series reveals that the outlook is slightly more positive than the previous survey. However, perceptions of the safety of the Covid-19 vaccine decreased. Read the rounds [1-6 synthesis report](#) and learn more about the Foundation's work to support good governance.

The Development Letters series aims to promote ideas with important policy and practical implications for developing countries. The most recent edition contains 10 articles that include, amongst others, practical ideas on tackling vaccine hesitancy, curbing single-use plastic pollution, measuring economic progress through experiential indicators, utilizing artificial intelligence for the national budget, and the potential impact of tariff liberalization under free trade agreement situations.



## The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region addresses five overarching goals—strengthen governance, empower women, expand economic opportunity, increase environmental resilience, and promote regional cooperation.

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