

### The Asia Foundation



Welcome to The Asia Foundation's Washington, D.C. January newsletter. This latest issue includes an introduction to the Foundation's new president, our recent virtual reflection on the Bali Care Economy Dialogue, our Country Representatives' predictions for Asia in 2023, 2022 highlights from the Foundation's blog, InAsia, and the Foundation's most recent publications on the Accelerate My Business program for women-led MSMEs in rural Malaysia and Indonesia and the India - U.S. Triangular Development Partnership.



#### The Asia Foundation Selects Laurel E. Miller as New President & CEO

The Asia Foundation Board of Trustees selected Laurel E. Miller as its new President & CEO, effective February 1, 2023. Laurel is a dynamic, experienced leader whose background spans nonprofit, public policy, private sector, and governmental leadership roles. She succeeds David D. Arnold, who is retiring after 12 years of leading the Foundation during a period of profound change across Asia and the Pacific. Click <u>here</u> to read more about Laurel.

## **Events**

Recent Virtual Event – <u>Toward a Resilient Care Ecosystem in Asia and the Pacific:</u> <u>Reflection on the Bali Care Economy Dialogue</u>



The Asia Foundation and the U.S. Department of State's Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues hosted a virtual reflection session that provided an overview of the Foundation's recent regional convening — the <u>Bali Care Economy Dialogue</u> — that took place in November 2022 to leverage global momentum around transforming the care economy while elevating perspectives

on care from Asia and the Pacific. The reflection session covered outcomes and actionable policies that emerged from the Bali Care Economy Dialogue, as well as key findings from the Foundation's new white paper on building a resilient care ecosystem in Asia and the Pacific. Learn more about the Foundation's women's empowerment and gender equality programs.

# **Voices from the Field**



#### The Future Forecast: Asia in 2023

At the end of each year, InAsia asks Foundation experts across Asia to reveal what the New Year has in store. And while it is hard to predict what is going to happen in the world's most rapidly changing region, if anyone has an idea, it is the Foundation's astute development experts working closely with communities on the ground across Asia. From elections in Bangladesh to a push for carbon neutrality in Vietnam and more, check out the Foundation's Country Representatives' 17 <u>predictions</u> for the year ahead in Asia. Read about <u>where we work</u> in the Asia-Pacific.



#### The Best of InAsia 2022

At the end of 2022, the InAsia editors looked back over the year and selected their favorite blog posts and podcast episodes. From a TV show in the Pacific Islands that promotes the region's traditional healthy dishes as a way to fight dietary disease to how Torkham, an old Silk Road market town that straddles the Afghanistan – Pakistan border, illustrates the tension between trade and security in conflict-affected border towns, the 2022 InAsia highlights paint a picture of a diverse and ever-changing region.

## **Recent Publications**







#### Accelerate My Business Executive Summary Report 2022

Disruption to labor markets brought on by Covid-19, alongside rapid digitization, created а "double disruption" for marginalized sectors in the Asia-Pacific region. The micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector generally suffered in the Asia-Pacific region, but female entrepreneurs were most affected. In response to these challenges, The Asia Foundation collaborated with AT&T and Visa to launch the Accelerate My Business (AMB) program, an initiative to help women-**MSMEs** led in rural and remote communities in Malaysia and Indonesia gain practical skills to sustain and grow their businesses. AMB is designed to build on the basic digital literacy training provided by Go Digital ASEAN and equip women-led MSMEs with the next level of skills needed to better participate in the digital economy. This report provides an overview of the Accelerate My Business program in

### India's Experience with Climate Smart Agriculture

Opportunities for Triangular Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific



India's Experience with Climate-Smart Agriculture: Opportunities for Triangular Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

The Asia Foundation, through its USAIDfunded India - U.S. Triangular Development Partnership (TriDeP), is working to strengthen India and the U.S.' development cooperation footprint in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. This study presents the shift in India's paradigm agricultural landscape and the trends in agricultural technology, policies, new initiatives, and frameworks for adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change in agriculture. It focuses on the institutional architecture of climate-smart agricultural practices and extension services, and the role of Indian private and public sector organizations in advancing innovative and sustainable solutions. The study also assesses how gender-responsive these agricultural practices are and highlights successful examples of smallholder and women farmers adopting climate-smart agricultural practices through various programs and

Malaysia and Indonesia. Learn more about initiatives. Learn more about The Asia The Asia Foundation's work in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Foundation's work in India.



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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