



## The Asia Foundation



Welcome to The Asia Foundation's Washington, DC October and November newsletter. This latest issue includes our recent event on the **rise of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) in South Korea**, the Foundation's **new Congressional Fellow**, the most recent **InAsia podcast episode about Rappler**, the latest **InAsia blog posts about vaccination campaigns across Asia**, and the Foundation's most recent **publications on the India-U.S. Triangular Development Partnership, higher education technology skills in Cambodia, and water management in the Pacific Islands**.

## Events



## Recent Virtual Event -- [The Rise of Environmental, Social, and Governance in South Korea: Greenwashing or Generational Opportunity?](#)

October 20, 2022 -- The recent rise of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards in South Korea could be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address social and environmental challenges, but “greenwashing” (using ESG more for marketing rather than real social impact) and lack of regulatory clarity remain key barriers. To address systemic ESG challenges and opportunities for South Korea, leaders from the public, private, and academic sectors gathered to formulate ESG policy reform recommendations. In this webinar, regional experts from the Korea Economic Institute, The Wells Investment, and The Asia Foundation reflected on the findings of the report. [Click here](#) for more information on the Foundation’s [Korea](#) programs.

## Voices from the Field



## Asia Foundation Congressional Fellow Arrives in DC

In mid-October, The Asia Foundation welcomed the 2022-23 Surin Pitsuwan Congressional Fellow Park Boonnuch, on leave from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to Washington, DC. The purpose of the fellowship is to learn firsthand about the system of governance in the U.S., particularly the legislative process. The 10-month fellowship program consists of seminars with policy specialists, congressional staffers, scholars, and journalists, organized by the American Political Science Association, and a placement on Capitol Hill where fellows have opportunities to gain familiarity with the legislative process by working with Members of Congress. The Foundation also arranges for the sponsored Surin Pitsuwan Fellow to visit the Canadian parliament in Ottawa, their Member's district, and San Francisco. Learn about the Foundation's [leadership and exchanges](#) programs.

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## The Heady Early Days of Rappler

This year, The Asia Foundation presented our Chang Lin Tien Distinguished Leadership Award to the pioneering Philippine news site Rappler and its founding team, Maria Ressa, Glenda Gloria, Chay Hofileña, and Beth Frondoso, for their courageous online journalism. Once a scrappy startup, Rappler at 10 years old has become a political lightning rod with an average of 40 million page views a month

and a history of discomfiting the powerful. Check out the latest episode of the [InAsia podcast](#) to hear Glenda Gloria and Maria Ressa's thoughts on their careers and winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

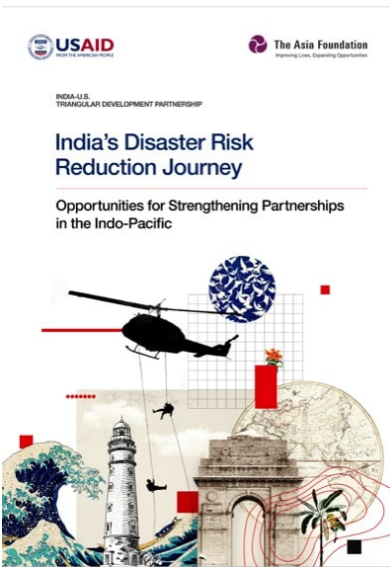
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### [Asia's New Normal, and the Massive Vaccination Campaigns That Preceded It](#)

The economic shock of Covid-19 across Asia was immense and yet much of the region is bouncing back with verve, with the Asian Development Bank and others estimating a return to economic growth across the region. A central driver has been the well-orchestrated, government-led vaccination programs. Seventy-two percent of the region's population has completed the initial vaccine protocol, compared with 67.5 percent in the United States and 66.2 percent in the European Union. This [InAsia blog post](#) explores the challenges and successes lower-middle income countries in Asia have experienced in their vaccination campaigns. Learn more about the Foundation's [good governance](#) programs.

## Recent Publications



## [India's Disaster Risk Reduction Journey: Opportunities for Strengthening Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific](#)

[India's](#) unique conditions make it vulnerable to multiple natural and human-caused disasters. The Asia Foundation, through its USAID-funded [India-U.S. Triangular Development Partnership](#) project, is working to establish a proactive disaster management approach and strengthen India's and the United States' development cooperation footprint in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. This study maps India's disaster management capabilities and identifies opportunities for India and the developing countries in the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and South Asia to partner for promising solutions.



## [Higher Education Institutions Information and Communications Technology Skills Gap Assessments Report in Cambodia](#)

The USAID Digital Workforce Development project in [Cambodia](#) is a five-year project targeting Cambodian youth, equipping them with enterprise-driven skills, training, and qualifications that will enable them to contribute to Cambodian society and succeed in an economy that is becoming increasingly digital. The Asia Foundation and the University of California at Berkeley, with support from USAID, have partnered to conduct two rapid assessments identifying the persisting gaps currently impeding the development of Cambodia's digital workforce. This report documents strengths and challenges and ends with recommendations on interventions that help meet the project's objectives. Check out the Foundation's work on [technology and development](#).



## [Political Economy of Water Management and Community Perceptions in the Pacific Island Countries](#)

Access to potable water and sanitation services is available to only 55% and 30% of Pacific Islanders, respectively, the latter being the lowest rate globally. The lack of water and basic sanitation services means that the majority of [Pacific Island Countries](#) are unlikely to achieve SDG6 by 2030. This report reviews the political context, water sector, individuals, agencies, and the role of formal and informal institutions in shaping water resource management across 14 countries in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. The research includes key interviews and a community perceptions survey.



## 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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