



The Asia Foundation



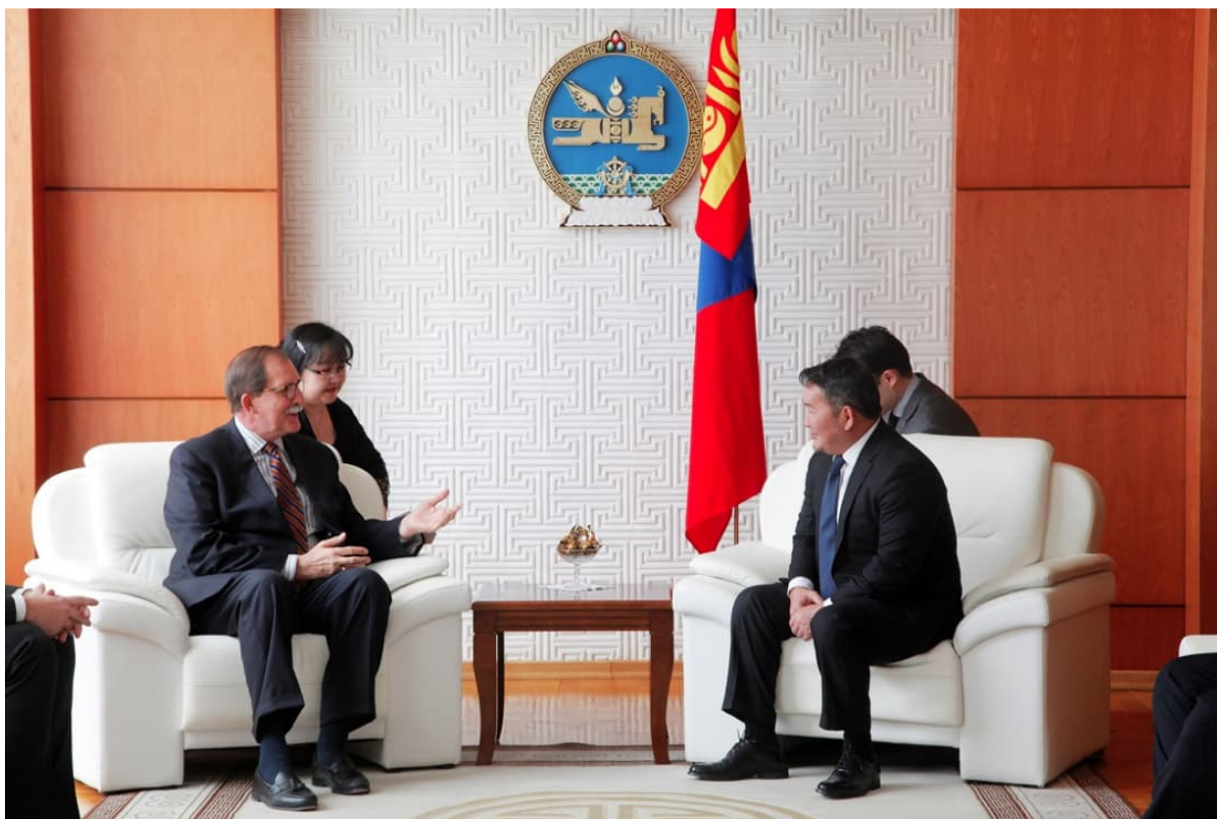
UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON, DC

Welcome to The Asia Foundation's Washington, D.C. March newsletter. This latest issue includes the **Save the Date for our upcoming event with Indonesian Women Forest Defenders**, **President and CEO David Arnold's exit interview**, InAsia blog posts on **combating human trafficking in the Pacific Islands**, **a lack of pro-bono lawyers in Indonesia**, and **Timor-Leste's digital influencers**, and the Foundation's most recent **publications on carbon pricing in Malaysia** and **coalition building initiatives across the Foundation**.

Events

Save the Date! April 28 - Indonesian Women Forest Defenders panel discussion. More details and RSVP link to come soon. [Learn more](#) about the Foundation's work on forestry and gender in Indonesia.

News



[Exit Interview: The Asia Foundation's David Arnold](#)

By the end of his time at The Asia Foundation, President and CEO [David Arnold](#) had steered the organization through a momentous era of great hopes and significant challenges (including in Myanmar and Afghanistan), a global pandemic that disrupted billions of lives, and a host of achievements in a dynamic and rapidly changing Asia-Pacific. As The Asia Foundation welcomes new leadership in 2023, David joined the [InAsia podcast](#) to reflect on 12 eventful years at the Foundation's helm.

Voices from the Field



[A Pacific Solution to a Pacific Challenge: A Human-Rights Approach to Human Trafficking](#)

The turquoise waters of the Pacific Islands may offer a picture-postcard setting, but they belie a spectrum of challenges faced by inhabitants of this vast ocean region. One of these challenges is human trafficking. With porous borders and a lack of resources and personnel, the Pacific Islands are sources, transit points, and destinations for trafficking in persons (TIP), especially sex and labor trafficking. This [InAsia blog post](#) outlines the Foundation's new USAID-funded program, *Pacific Regional Initiative and Support for More Effective Counter-Trafficking in Persons (Pacific RISE-CTIP)* and highlights how combating TIP in the region will require uniquely Pacific solutions. Learn more about the Foundation's work in the [Pacific Islands](#) and programs on [women's empowerment and gender equality](#).



[For Indonesians Who Can't Afford a Lawyer, Justice Is Out of Reach](#)

In Indonesia, more than 26 million people live below the poverty line. Among the 600 civil society legal aid organizations, there are just 100,000 registered advocates (loosely equivalent to attorneys), only some of whom offer their services pro-bono. For people like Dian, a single mother who was charged with narcotics trafficking after she was tricked into acting as a drug courier, representation by a pro-bono lawyer is their only chance at defending themselves in the justice system. This [InAsia blog post](#) dives into Indonesia's need for pro-bono lawyers and what the

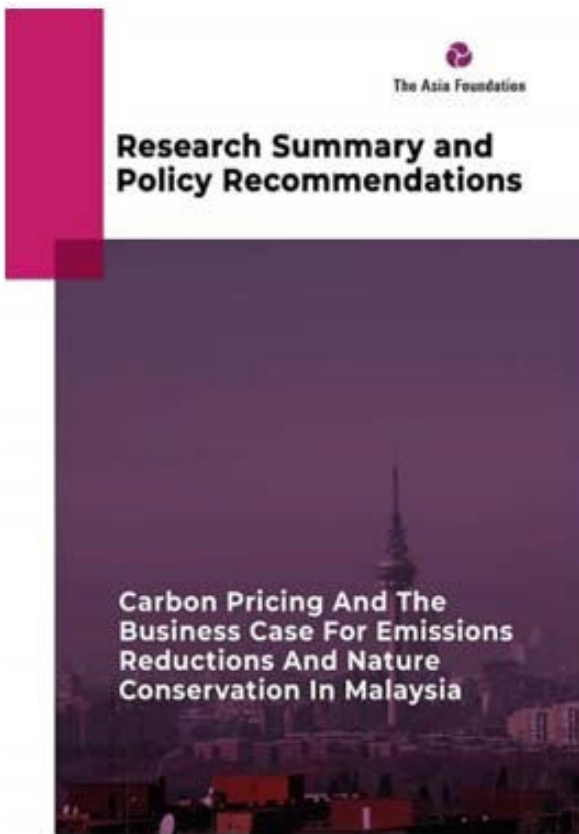
Foundation is doing to address this issue. Learn more about the Foundation's work in [Indonesia](#) and programs on [law and justice](#).



[Timor-Leste's Digital Influencers: Waiting for a Signal](#)

A young generation of avid technology users is embracing the internet in Timor-Leste. With 74 percent of the population under 35 years old, and increasing access to cheap smartphones, mobile internet access is growing and transforming the lives of young Timorese. However, mobile connectivity remains slow and expensive across this island nation, and Timorese pay more for their mobile data than any other country in Southeast Asia. In 2022, The Asia Foundation's Community Security and Justice program set out to better understand the online lives of young Timorese and published a report, [Digital Youth in Timor-Leste](#). This [InAsia blog post](#) highlights some of the report's findings. Learn more about the Foundation's work in [Timor-Leste](#) and programs on [technology and development](#).

Recent Publications



[Carbon Pricing and the Business Case for Emissions Reductions and Nature Conservation in Malaysia: Research Summary and Policy Recommendations](#)

Carbon pricing instruments (CPIs) transform energy markets by enhancing the economic case for investment in low-carbon energy instead of fossil fuels. CPIs also strengthen incentives to conserve and rehabilitate natural capital by placing a tangible valuation on the economic benefits of carbon sequestration. Given the Malaysian government’s intention to introduce CPIs, it is important to consider how carbon pricing can drive emission reductions and encourage



[On the Right Tack: Reflections on Coalition-Building Initiatives Across The Asia Foundation](#)

Coalitions—groups of organizations and individuals working together to pursue a common policy goal or reform—are crucial to development. Some of The Asia Foundation’s longest-standing and most successful development programs and portfolios have used coalition-building as an implementation modality. This paper examines successful initiatives in Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste. By delving into these initiatives, the paper sheds light on this coalition-building modality, shares insights about how externally-

conservation. This study focuses on the implications of carbon pricing across Malaysia's energy and forestry sectors. Action across both sectors is crucial to Malaysia's pursuit of its Nationally Determined Contribution and long-term goals to decarbonize and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Learn more about the Foundation's [environment and climate action](#) programs and its work in [Malaysia](#).

supported coalitions emerge and function, and contributes ideas about how such support can be adapted to other contexts. Learn more about the Foundation's [governance](#) programming.



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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