



The Asia Foundation



Welcome to The Asia Foundation's Washington, D.C. September newsletter. This issue features announcements for an upcoming **virtual report launch** as well as a **panel on governance in Asia, the first story in the Foundation's new #70at70 series**, an InAsia podcast episode about the **LeadNext Fellowship**, an InAsia blog post about **Bangladeshi migrant workers in the Maldives**, and recent publications on **peacebuilding in Asia** and the Foundation's USAID-funded project, the **India–U.S. Triangular Development Partnership (TriDeP)**.

Events

Upcoming Webinar – [Clean Energy Future Demands: Massive Shift in Critical Materials and Global Supply Chains](#)

September 28, 9:00 - 10:15 AM EDT – Critical materials are the foundations of the technologies on which modern life depends. These metals and materials are crucial for a green transition because they are used in everything from electric vehicles, batteries, wind turbines, among other energy-efficient technologies. In June 2023, The Asia Foundation and the Perth USAsia Centre brought together specialists from the Republic of Korea, Australia, and the United States, representing industry, academia, and think tank communities, to discuss trilateral opportunities to secure future energy resources, collaborative efforts to support the development and supply of critical materials, and the challenges and risks of supply chain disruptions. This two-day discussion produced a report, "What a Clean Energy Future Demands: Massive Shift in Critical Materials and Global Supply Chains," with recommendations on how trilateral cooperation can help build scalable, sustainable, and secure supply chains needed to tackle one of today's most significant global challenges. RSVP to the virtual report launch [here](#).

Save the Date! Tactical Alliances: Supporting Local Coalitions for Development in Asia

October 5 – Please join us for a discussion of the role and experience of coalitions—groups of individuals and organizations that work together to pursue a common policy goal or reform—in achieving development outcomes. The discussion will feature experience with coalition building in Nepal, the Philippines, and other contexts, including the approaches taken by coalition leaders, the role of external actors in supporting coalition building, and other considerations. Speakers will include Nicola Nixon, Senior Director, Governance, The Asia Foundation and Thomas Carothers, co-director, Democracy, Conflict and Governance Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. More details and RSVP link to come soon. Learn more about the Foundation's [governance programs](#) and read the latest publication on [coalition building](#).

Voices from the Field



[#70at70: In 1990s Sri Lanka, the University of Colombo Recovers from a Deadly Insurrection](#)

In 2024, The Asia Foundation marks its 70th year in Asia and the Pacific. To commemorate 70 years, the Foundation is releasing the series #70at70, remembering moments when timely support from the Foundation has had an enduring impact on people and institutions across Asia and the Pacific. This first story in the series looks at how after the University of Colombo

in Sri Lanka shutdown during a period of nation-wide violence in the late 1980s, the Foundation helped support its reopening by funding a Student Counseling Information Center. Learn more about the Foundation's programming in [Sri Lanka](#).



[Listen to: Transformative Lessons from LeadNext Global Leaders' Summit](#)

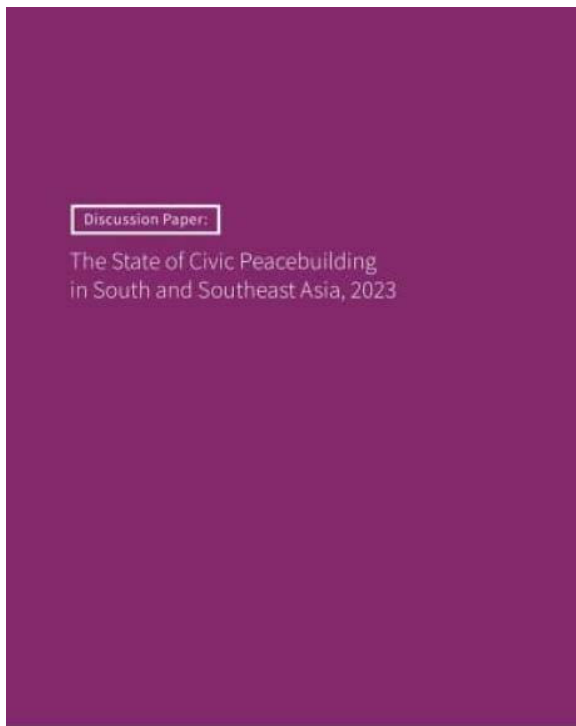
LeadNext is The Asia Foundation's dynamic new program focused on global citizenship for the 21st century. LeadNext builds a vibrant network of future leaders aged 18-25 from across the Asia-Pacific region and the United States and supports their growth, impact, and capacity to address today's greatest challenges by equipping them with strong international networks, exposure to wide-ranging experiences, and leadership tools to thoughtfully steer the future. Listen to the latest episode of the InAsia podcast to hear Temuulen Enkhbat, a Fellow from Mongolia, discuss her LeadNext Fellowship experience. Learn more about the Foundation's [Leadership and Exchange](#) programs.



[Bangladeshi Workers in Maldives: Reforming a Vital Relationship](#)

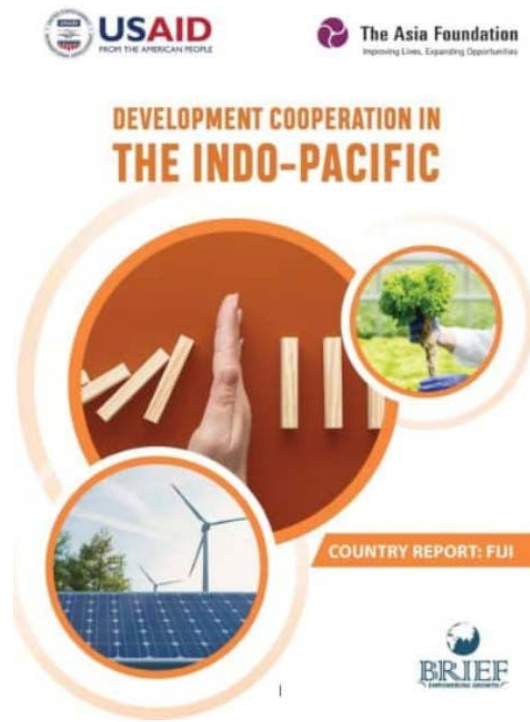
Labor migration plays a major role in the Maldives, where a large part of the nation's labor force is made up of undocumented migrant workers from Bangladesh. Significant loopholes in the laws governing labor migration have resulted in the widespread exploitation of undocumented workers through wage theft, excessive work schedules, deceptive and fraudulent recruiting, and occupational safety and health violations. This InAsia blogpost outlines the work the Foundation in partnership with the Public Interest Law Center and the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit of Bangladesh is doing to develop policies to minimize the impact of irregular migration in the Maldives and stop the exploitation and unlawful detention of migrants. Learn more about the Foundation's work in [Bangladesh](#).

Recent Publications



[The State of Civic Peacebuilding in South and Southeast Asia, 2023](#)

This paper details the opportunities and challenges facing civil society actors working in peacebuilding or peace activism in South and Southeast Asia. Shrinking civic space has become a global phenomenon, and while this trend towards greater authoritarianism and populist politics has heavily infringed on civil society-led peacebuilding across the region, national-level impacts are mixed. Though the overall trend in many countries may be democratic backsliding, civil society peace actors have navigated these challenges through new and old tools and tactics such as social media, digital mediation, and civil disobedience. These tools have also led to new civic solidarities prying open spaces through cooperation and coordination across the region. The evolving dynamics described in this paper hold important



[Complementarity of Indian Development Cooperation with Similar Initiatives in the Indo-Pacific – Fiji](#)

The Asia Foundation, through its India–U.S. Triangular Development Partnership (TriDeP), a program funded by USAID, is working toward strengthening India’s and the U.S.’ development cooperation footprint in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. TriDeP seeks to identify countries in Asia and the Pacific where there is a potential demand for partnership with India and then prioritize its activities based on such identification. This report assesses the status of developmental cooperation for Fiji in the identified sectors of disaster risk reduction, climate-smart agriculture, and renewable energy. The report then provides India with a background for an effective and efficient roadmap for development cooperation through relevant case studies and demand-supply

implications for peacebuilding policy and practice across the region. Learn more about the Foundation's [Conflict and Fragility](#) programming.

mapping. Learn more about the Foundation's work in [India](#) and the [Pacific Islands](#).



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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