



The Asia Foundation



Welcome to The Asia Foundation's Washington, D.C. November and December newsletter. This final issue of the year features news updates about **the Foundation co-hosting the 2023 Australasian Aid Conference**, **a new partnership with Stanford HAI on AI** and **the new APAC cybersecurity fund**, an InAsia blog post about **the Foundation's 30th anniversary in Mongolia**, an InAsia podcast episode about **how one of our 2023 Development Fellows created a board game to encourage accessible business practices**, as well as recent publications on **critical minerals and global supply chains** and **carbon pricing in Southeast Asia**.

News

[The Asia Foundation Co-Hosts the 2023 Australasian Aid Conference](#)



Photo source: Australian National University

The Asia Foundation, in partnership with the [Development Policy Centre](#) at Australian National University, hosted the [2023 Australasian Aid Conference](#) from December 5-7. This year's themes included locally led development, gender equality and social inclusion, climate resilience, and aid effectiveness. Now in its ninth year, the Australasian Aid Conference convenes researchers from Australia, the Pacific, and beyond who specialize in aid and international development policy to facilitate knowledge sharing, foster collaborative efforts, and enhance development in the community. [Laurel Miller](#), the Foundation's President and CEO, served as a keynote speaker. Other Foundation speakers included [Meghan Nalbo](#), Country Representative, Nepal, [Lavenia Rokovucago](#), Senior Program Officer, Pacific Islands, [Adam Burke](#), Regional Director, Conflict and Fragility, [Nicola Nixon](#), Senior Director, Governance, [Anthea Mulakala](#), Senior Director, International Development Cooperation, and [Jane Sloane](#), Senior Director, Women's Empowerment Program. Learn more about the [Foundation's role in the conference](#).

[The Asia Foundation and Stanford HAI Announce "AI Perspectives from Asia" Program](#)



In November, The Asia Foundation partnered with the [Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI \(HAI\)](#) to launch the new program “AI Perspectives from Asia” to assist governments and civil society in understanding and engaging effectively with AI. [The program](#) will support stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific with the insights they need to effectively navigate the societal effects of this technology. Drawing on HAI’s strengths in research and education, together with the Foundation’s program footprint across more than 20 countries in the region, the new collaboration will bolster dialogue on AI. Learn more about the Foundation’s [technology and development](#) programming.

[APAC Cybersecurity Fund](#)

The Asia Foundation, with \$15M in support from [Google.org](#), Google’s philanthropic arm, is launching the four year APAC Cybersecurity Fund in partnership with [CyberPeace Institute](#) and [Global Cyber Alliance](#) to bolster cyber capabilities of 300,000 underserved micro and small businesses, nonprofits, and social enterprises. Working with implementing organizations and universities across the region, The Asia Foundation aims to equip local communities and students via upskilling tools and cyber clinics to protect against online risks. The initiative will span 13 locations, including Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Voices from the Field



[30 Stories to Celebrate 30 Years in Mongolia](#)

The Asia Foundation is celebrating 30 years in Mongolia with its [#30years30impacts campaign](#). The Foundation opened its resident office in Ulaanbaatar in 1993, after several years of cooperation that began immediately after Mongolia’s transition to democracy in 1990. From these earliest days, The Asia Foundation was a reliable partner for technical assistance, academic and cultural exchanges, research and analysis, and other contributions to help leaders in the Mongolian government and civil society set the country on a democratic course. Thirty

years later, much has changed, and Mongolia, despite its challenges, has an incredible story of progress to tell. This [InAsia blog post](#) provides an overview of the Foundation's work in Mongolia over the past 30 years and highlights stories featured in the [#30years30impacts campaign](#). Learn more about the Foundation's work in [Mongolia](#).



[Welcome to Woopie Town!](#)

Tanzila Kahn, one of the 2023 Asia Foundation Development Fellows, is a writer, a disability activist, and an entrepreneur whose online business [Girlythings.pk](#) delivers menstrual kits and reproductive health products anonymously and securely to women across Pakistan. Tanzila, who uses a wheelchair, recently created [Woopie Town](#), a boardgame that sensitizes players to people with disabilities and encourages accessible business practices. In this episode of the [InAsia podcast](#), Tanzila discusses her disability activism work and the inspiration behind Woopie Town. Learn more about the Foundation's [leadership and exchange](#) programs.

Recent Publications



[What a Clean Energy Future Demands: A Massive Shift in Critical Minerals and Global Supply Chains](#)

Earlier this year, 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 minerals, and the challenges and risks of supply chain disruptions. The resulting report, *[What a Clean Energy Future Demands: A Massive Shift in Critical Minerals and Global Supply Chains](#)*, builds on the trilateral discussion and provides recommendations on how the three countries can move forward on this issue. Learn more about the Foundation's [international relations](#) programs.



[The State of Carbon Pricing in Southeast Asia](#)

Carbon pricing has become an increasingly popular policy measure used to support growing global efforts to address the causes of climate change and adapt to its consequences. In Southeast Asia, seven of ten ASEAN member states (AMS) are either considering implementing or have implemented a mandatory carbon tax or emissions trading system, and all AMS have been involved in carbon crediting activities in some capacity in recent decades. Though general guidelines exist for their implementation, unique national and subnational circumstances mean that there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach toward carbon pricing instruments (CPIs). This report creates a scope for regional actors, including international development organizations, to provide support and guidance to national-level

governments in the development of their CPIs.
Learn more about the Foundation's [environment
and climate action](#) programs.



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The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives and expanding opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Informed by decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region is focused on good governance, women's empowerment and gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international relations.

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