



Summer 2016

In this issue: Indonesia, Women's Empowerment Program, Afghanistan, Environment, Sri Lanka, Asian Perspectives, Thailand, Nepal, and Vietnam

Upcoming Events

July 11 – Preeti Thapa, a senior program officer in the Asia Foundation's Nepal office, will discuss the evolution of community mediation from interpersonal to multi-stakeholder mediation in Nepal, with a special emphasis on gender and restorative justice. Read more about the Asia Foundation's programs in Nepal [here](#).

July 14 - Sandra Hamid, the Asia Foundation's country representative to Indonesia, will provide an update on the current developments in the country. Learn more about the Asia Foundation's program in Indonesia [here](#).

Recent Events

May 11 - This year, the Asia Foundation's Women's Empowerment Program honored the First Lady of Afghanistan Rula Ghani and the Carnegie Corporation of New York at the sixth annual Lotus Leadership Awards Gala. Each year, the Asia Foundation's Lotus Leadership Awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that have made major contributions to the well-being of women and girls in Asia. Learn more about the Lotus Circle [here](#).



Mrs. Ghani: "I would like to accept this award on behalf of all Afghan women, who are day in and day out working hard to rebuild their society." Photo: Leandro Justen

May 17 - Kim De Ridder, the Asia Foundation's Director of Environment Programs, presented an update on environmental challenges facing Asia and the Foundation's programs including disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and green growth, and natural resources management. Read more about the Foundation's environment programs [here](#).

May 18 – The Embassy of Sri Lanka and the Asia Foundation hosted a reception to raise awareness about LankaCorps. This unique Asia Foundation fellowship opportunity enables young professionals of Sri Lankan heritage to live and work in Sri Lanka through engagement in development activities that benefit the country. Find out more about the LankaCorps Fellowships Program [here](#).

June 21 - As part of the Washington Office Asian Perspectives Series, a panel of Asia Foundation experts discussed Evidence-based Approaches to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Experts shared lessons from the field – most notably from Bangladesh, Cambodia and Timor-Leste – to explain how we can address violence against women. Panel experts included Junayed Jamal Mir, Sambath My and Xian Warner, and the event was moderated by Disha Zaidi of the World Bank. Learn more about the Foundation’s Women’s Empowerment programs here and watch the video here.

In the News

Two Years After Thailand’s Coup, Draft Constitution Stirs Controversy

May 22 marked the second anniversary of the coup that ousted Thailand’s elected Pheu Thai government, ended weeks of escalating political tensions in the streets of Bangkok, and installed the military-led National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) that has since held firm rein on state affairs. Most significantly, a second draft constitution has emerged as the product of a tightly managed drafting process that bore no stamp of public input or consultation, which Thais of legal voting age are invited to approve or reject in a national referendum scheduled for August 7. Read more from Kim McQuay, The Asia Foundation’s Country Representative from Thailand, here.

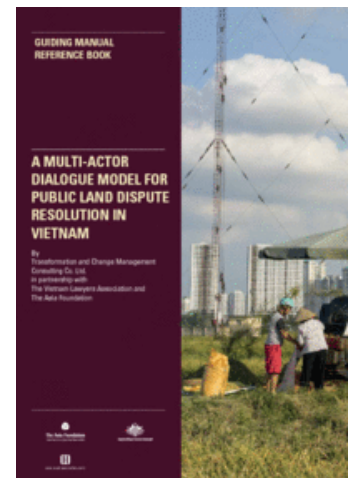


As monsoon season approaches, families who were displaced and live in temporary shelters like this one in Nele VDC, are increasingly concerned.

Publications of Interest

A Multi-Actor Dialogue Model for Public Land Dispute Resolution in Vietnam

Over the last two decades, economic and regulatory reforms in Vietnam have stimulated a vibrant residential land market, an urban construction boom and an ascendant middle class. But these reforms have also unleashed waves of conflict over land. “Hot spots” have erupted where people directly, and sometimes violently, challenge state land policies and officials. Both courts and administrative dispute resolution agencies struggle to find lasting solutions to land disputes. This manual is an important output of the Foundation’s partnership with DFAT, and we hope it is useful for those interested in the multi-actor dialogue method and its application to land disputes.



The Asia Foundation improves lives, expands opportunities, and helps societies flourish across a dynamic and developing Asia. We work with innovative leaders and communities to build effective institutions and advance pathbreaking reforms. Together with our partners, we are committed to Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world.