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In this issue: 2019 *Survey of the Afghan People*, Women in Afghanistan, Mongolia, APEC Digital Prosperity Award, 2020 in Asia, Nepal, Pakistan, Combatting Human Trafficking, Afghanistan, and Industrial Revolution 4.0

Recent Events

December 3 —The Asia Foundation and the U.S. Institute of Peace hosted a presentation of the key findings of the Foundation’s 2019 *Survey of the Afghan People*, followed by a panel discussion on the trends and shifts in the data from past years. Watch a [recording of the entire event](#), explore the Foundation’s Data Portal at surveys.asiafoundation.org and learn more about the Foundation’s programs in [Afghanistan](#).

December 5 —At the event on “*The Role of Women in Afghanistan: Key Findings from the 2019 Survey of the Afghan People*,” experts discussed findings from the 2019 *Survey of the Afghan People* and reflected on the implications of this opinion data for women’s rights and gender equality in Afghanistan. Learn more about the Foundation’s programs [empowering women](#).

December 11 — [Mark Koenig](#), The Asia Foundation’s country representative in [Mongolia](#), shared his reflections on the country’s recently approved constitutional changes and the critical upcoming elections in June 2020. Read more about the Foundation’s programs on [elections](#) and [strengthening governance](#) in Asia.

Technology and Development

[The Asia Foundation Supports APEC Digital Prosperity Award](#)

The [2019 APEC App Challenge](#) brought together 22 software developers and designers to design, build, and demo innovative mobile and web apps that have the potential to help women entrepreneurs grow their businesses in APEC economies. Launched in 2017 and supported by the [APEC Secretariat](#), [Google](#), and The Asia Foundation, the APEC Digital Prosperity Award recognizes initiatives that have the most potential to broaden prosperity and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific. The winners of the Award are two innovative programmers from Malaysia—Faezrah Rizalman and Jeanette Goon, who designed Bayu Harvest, an app to help small-scale women farmers sell their product on an e-commerce platform designed specifically for them. See the winners of the 2019 APEC App Challenge [here](#). Learn more about the Foundation’s programs on [technology and development](#).

Notes from the Field

[2020 in Asia: A 20/20 Look](#)

Afghanistan weighs peace talks with the Taliban as China's president Xi Jinping wrestles with environmental challenges, poverty reduction, and financial risks. India faces deepening social and political polarization that threatens social cohesion, while Myanmar must address international legal action over the Rohingya crisis. As we enter the third decade of the new millennium, Asia faces both challenges and opportunities. On the arrival of 2020, country representatives from The Asia Foundation's [18 country offices](#) share perspectives on what lies ahead. Learn more about the [work](#) of Foundation.



[Nepal's Transition to Federalism: A Behavioral Approach](#)



Kathmandu, capital of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal (Photo: PO_PDS / Shutterstock.com)

The introduction of federalism and the decentralization of governance in Nepal were explicitly envisaged to improve services at the local level. Despite an abundance of political will and institutional buy-in pursuing reforms, the main objective seems elusive. To understand the ways that actors in a system of decentralized governance decide, or fail, to act, The Asia Foundation and [ideas42](#) have been developing a new toolkit using behavioral science to study governance, particularly the knotty challenges that have hindered reform and the transition to federalism in Nepal. Preliminary insights identify the underlying psychological phenomena of status quo bias, identity, social norms and the “planning fallacy” that require further exploration. Learn more about the Foundation's programs in [Nepal](#).

[Alternative Dispute Resolution Gains Traction in Pakistan](#)

The Asia Foundation and the Kinnaird College for Women organized a seminar on *Mediation—A New Code of Adjudication* to explore the challenges, opportunities, and new developments in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in the 21st century. ADR has been gaining policy traction in Pakistan since 2017 with the passage of several legislations in Islamabad, Punjab and Sindh. The Lahore High Court's (LHC's) strategic roadmap—*Vision: 2017*—prioritizes the training of ADR practitioners, which is also conducted under The Asia Foundation's project, *Mainstreaming ADR for Equitable Access to Justice in Pakistan*. Read about the Foundation's programs in [Pakistan](#) and [law and justice](#).



The seminar “Mediation—A New Code of Adjudication” was organized by The Asia Foundation and the Kinnaird College for Women in Lahore, Pakistan. (Photo: Abbas Hussain / The Asia Foundation)

Program Highlight

[Combating Human Trafficking](#)

The Asia Foundation's sustained engagement across Asia and the Pacific for 65 years has positioned it to support effective, locally-driven, survivor-centered strategies to prevent human trafficking within and across borders. The Foundation also works to protect trafficking survivors and build capacity to prosecute traffickers. Read more about our programs [empowering women](#).

Publications of Interest

[Industrial Revolution 4.0 and the Future of Work: Implications for Asian Development Cooperation](#)



Organized jointly by the KDI School of Public Policy and Management and The Asia Foundation, this year's "[Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation](#)" (AADC) [dialogue series](#) discussed how Asian development cooperation could factor in the features of industrial revolution 4.0 (4IR) and to address the challenges posed by the future of work. The discussion included exploring present structural readiness in respective national contexts for the changing technological landscape, examining new types of partnerships in preparing for the transition, reviewing private sector-led strategies in tackling these challenges, and identifying areas of region-wide cooperation for mutual competitiveness. Learn more about The Asia Foundation's programs in [Korea](#), and on [development and aid effectiveness](#).

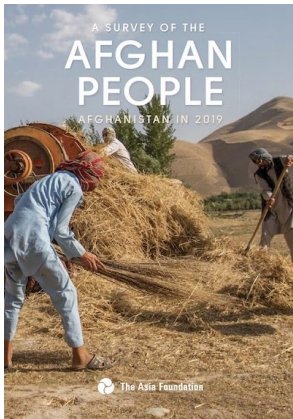
2019 Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation (AADC)

Industrial Revolution 4.0 and the Future of Work :
Implications for Asian Development Cooperation

Oct 28-30, 2019
Seoul, Korea



[Afghanistan in 2019: A Survey of the Afghan People](#)



The longest-running barometer of Afghan opinion, the [Survey of the Afghan People](#) is a map of social change over time, presenting a clear picture of the gains and gaps that Afghans perceive in a rapidly transforming nation. The Survey, now on its fifteenth edition, has gathered the views of more than 129,000 Afghans since 2004 on security, elections, governance, the economy, essential services, corruption, youth issues, reconciliation with the Taliban, access to media, migration, the role of women, and political participation. Learn more about The Asia Foundation's programs in [Afghanistan](#).

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.