



The Asia Foundation



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EVENTS

Upcoming Virtual Seminar - [The Impact of Covid-19 on Small Businesses in Southeast Asia: A Deeper Look at the Women's Workforce in Thailand and Malaysia](#)

FEBRUARY 21, 2022 - Cohosted with Shizenkan University, this event will feature presentations on the Foundation's recent report [Barely Staying Afloat: The Impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs in Southeast Asia](#). The discussion will highlight the ways in which COVID-19 has affected small businesses, especially women in the workforce, and provide recommendations for post-COVID recovery.

Recent Virtual Event - [Book Launch: Cambodia's Chairmanship of ASEAN; Challenging Perceptions, Concretizing Consolidations](#)

FEBRUARY 8, 2022 - Given Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN, the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, with Asia Foundation support, authored *Cambodia's Chairmanship of ASEAN: Challenging Perceptions, Concretizing Consolidations*. This book will serve as a "handbook" for relevant stakeholders to take stock of prospective opportunities, consider hindering challenges, and navigate through external influences. The Foundation's [John Brandon](#) moderated a conversation with authors and thought leaders to share ideas on Cambodia's ASEAN Chair year. Learn more about our work in [Cambodia](#) and [International Relations](#) program.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

[Pacific Islands: In Pacific Island Kitchens, the Revolution Is Being Televised](#)

Over the past 50 years in the Pacific Islands, the displacement of the traditional food system in favor of imported, processed foods has been accompanied by an epidemic of obesity and noncommunicable diseases. In response, the Foundation joined forces with the producers of Pacific Island Food Revolution (PIFR), a reality-TV cooking competition that has become a runaway hit. The show champions local superfoods that are nutritionally superior and culturally significant. PIFR is transforming perceptions of traditional cuisine and exemplifies the significant potential for real sustained change led by local communities, their knowledge, skills, and culture. Learn more about our work in the [Pacific Islands](#).



The teams from Vanuatu face off in season two for the right to represent their country's cuisine in the finals. Basil and Annette Leodoro, center, call themselves the "Foodie Doctors." (Photo: Pacific Island Food Revolution)

[Afghanistan: A Cold Winter of Hunger Unfolding in the Heart of Asia](#)

In Afghanistan, an ongoing humanitarian crisis, compounded by the impact of Covid-19, a severe drought, and an economic and banking collapse has left the population in free fall facing a cold winter of hunger. These complex factors coalesce in the agriculture sector, which is also an arena of immense gender disparity. While 70 percent of rural women work in the sector, they account for only 12 percent of students in agricultural technical and vocational training. This article of InAsia calls for developing the agricultural sector with one of Afghanistan's greatest natural resources: its people – and especially its women – to support national growth, self-reliance, and a productive and prosperous future. Learn how you can support the most vulnerable Afghan citizens and organizations through the Foundation's [Afghanistan Relief Fund](#).



Seventy percent of rural women in Afghanistan work directly or indirectly in agriculture, but just 12 percent of all students in agricultural education are girls. (Photo: Yves Picq / CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

[Peering into the Year Ahead in Asia](#)

Hear from Foundation Country Representatives across the Indo-Pacific as they look ahead to 2022 and outline upcoming challenges, priorities, and predictions. Country Representatives from Afghanistan and Myanmar discuss the reality on the ground in the wake of the sudden regime changes of 2021 and how the Foundation will move forward in the year ahead.

PUBLICATIONS

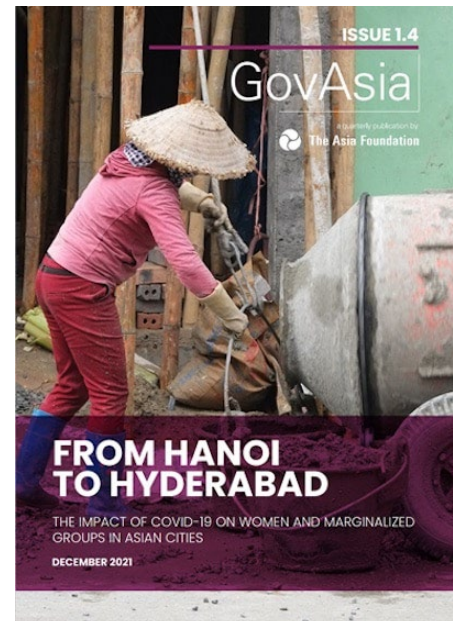
Malaysia: Recommendations Towards Improving Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Malaysia

To support the growth and improvement of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Malaysia, the Foundation partnered with the International Institute of Public Policy and Management, University of Malaya to perform a study to better understand Malaysia's TVET landscape. This report proposes six recommendations to realize the goal of creating a national TVET system that will support Malaysia's continued growth. Learn more about our work in [Malaysia](#) and with [inclusive economic growth](#).



GovAsia Issue 4: From Hanoi to Hyderabad

This issue of GovAsia looks at the multidimensional impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in eight cities across Asia. This research focuses on the perspectives and experiences of those who receive the fewest benefits of urbanization due to a range of intersecting marginalized identities and experiences. This publication explores the drivers of inequalities before and during the Covid-19 pandemic, which will likely contribute to future and more rapidly growing inequalities. Authors encourage government officials and development practitioners to look beyond reductive economic indicators and apply a multidimensional lens to better recognize and address the pandemic's impacts on human and financial capital and capacity, now and in the future. Learn more about our work on [good governance](#) and read the [GovAsia series](#).



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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