



The Asia Foundation



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EVENTS

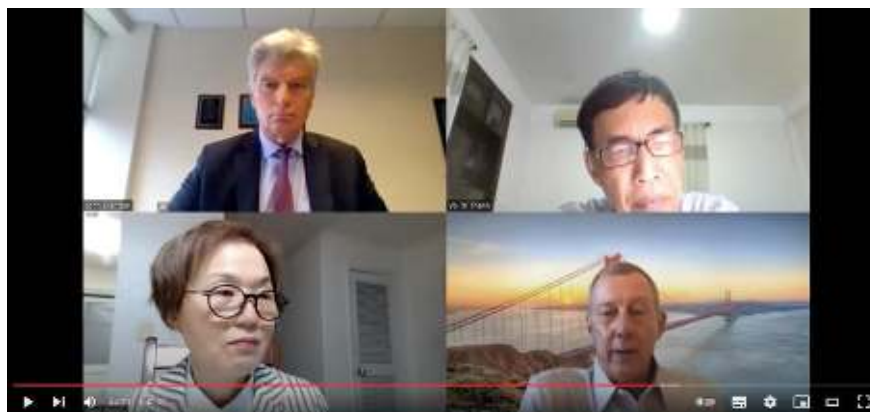
Recent Virtual Event - [Laos in 2022: Development Challenges and Opportunities](#)

JUNE 23, 2022 - Laos faces many challenges as one of Asia's least developed economies and Southeast Asia's only landlocked country. During his visit to Washington, D.C., The Asia Foundation hosted a discussion with [Todd Wassel](#), our country representative in Laos, who addressed current issues facing the country. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Foundation's work in Laos.



Recent Virtual Event - [Deepening Ties: Prospects for Trilateral Cooperation between the Republic of Korea, the United States, and Vietnam](#)

JUNE 21, 2022 - Despite many differences in politics, strategic and economic interests, South Korea, the United States and Vietnam have expanded ties across a wide spectrum of issues. Security issues, especially nontraditional aspects, have emerged as notable avenues for cooperation moving forward. This discussion, moderated by The Asia Foundation's [John Brandon](#), Senior Director of [International Relations](#) Programs, focused on prospects for trilateral cooperation between the three countries.



Recent Virtual Event - [Building Climate Resilience in Asia](#)

JUNE 15, 2022 - The Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world, home to half of the world's top 10 countries at the greatest risk from climate change. Moderated by [Kim J. DeRidder](#), Director

of [Environment and Climate Action](#) Programs, The Asia Foundation hosted environmental experts from Indonesia, Laos, and Nepal to discuss building climate resilience through diverse project activities, and their policy recommendations for more effective environmental and climate governance in the region.



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

[Vietnam: Protecting Domestic Workers with the Blockchain](#)

The latest episode of the [InAsia podcast](#) explores a new and unlikely player in defending the rights of Vietnamese migrant domestic workers: blockchain technology. For years, migrant domestic workers in Vietnam belonged to an informal economy that made it difficult to access essential social and financial services. The episode dives into the ways that blockchain promises to streamline and secure the documentation that can bring informal labor migrants into the formal economy, protecting their rights and opening new opportunities. Learn more about the Foundation's work on [technology and development](#), as well as [women's empowerment and gender equality](#).



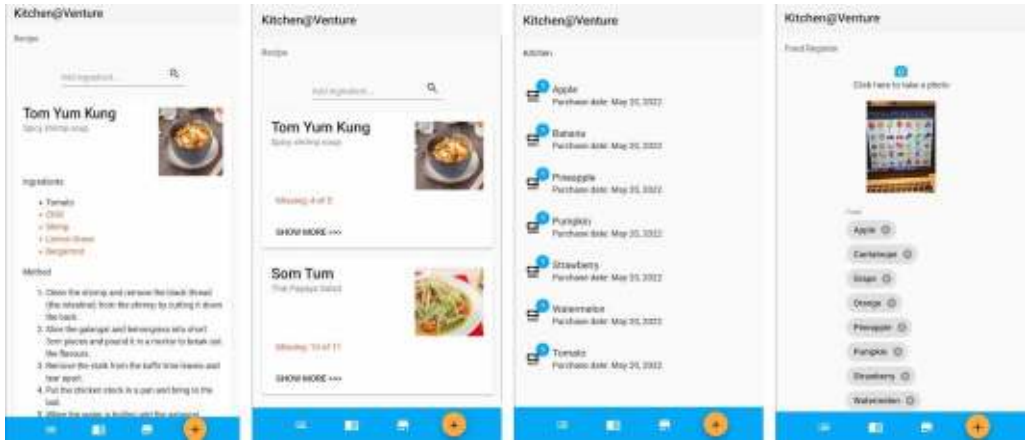
A domestic worker using the blockchain app

[Young Asian Diplomats: Building U.S.- Asia Bonds](#)

In June 2022, thirteen mid-career diplomats from countries across Asia and the Pacific joined together for a three-week program studying the complex issues, processes, and challenges involved in the formation of U.S. foreign and domestic policy. The program serves to deepen the bonds of understanding, trust, and cooperation among a new generation of leaders in the region. Learn about the Foundation's [leadership and exchange](#) programs.

[Transforming the Food Supply Chain, One Refrigerator at a Time](#)

What if there was an app to help you reduce your own personal food waste? Thanks to the [APEC App Challenge](#), now there is. The 2022 APEC theme challenged competitors to develop a digital tool to help small farmers and entrepreneurs in the food supply chain transform their businesses to advance the "bio-circular-green" economy. This episode of the [InAsia podcast](#) highlights the winning app, *Kitchen@Venture*, which allows users to take a photo of the contents of their fridge and receive suggestions for healthy food combinations and how to minimize waste. Read more about the Foundation's work on [environment and climate action](#), as well as [technology and development](#).



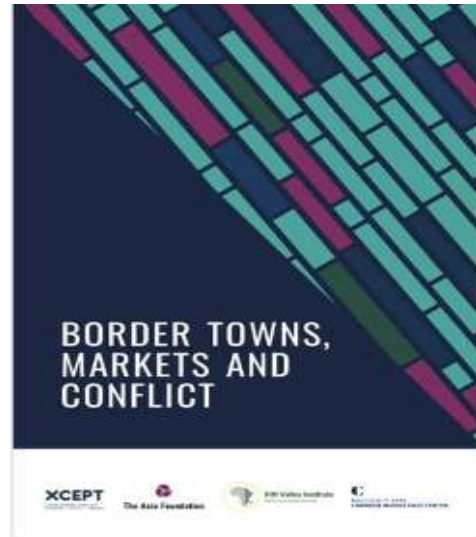
Screenshots from Kitchen@Venture

PUBLICATIONS



[Go Digital ASEAN: Regional Impact Summary](#)

Launched in June 2020, the [Go Digital ASEAN](#) initiative was designed to broaden digital participation to more than 200,000 people from rural regions and underserved communities in the ten ASEAN Member States, as a step toward a more inclusive ASEAN region. This regional initiative was spearheaded by The Asia Foundation, endorsed by



[Border Towns, Markets and Conflict](#)

This report aims to amplify a grounded understanding of the everyday reality of communities in fragile border areas and how conflict shapes their lives. The six towns in this report—covering the borders of Afghanistan -Pakistan,

the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (ACCMSME), and funded by Google's philanthropic arm, Google.org. The impact report reveals micro/small businesses' and job seekers' perceptions of the training program's value in providing access to digital skills and tools amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Myanmar-Thailand, South Sudan-Ethiopia, South Sudan-Sudan, Syria-Turkey, and the Yemen-maritime border—illustrate the complexity of political economies in border areas affected by conflict and fragility. Overall, the report presents a way of understanding the dynamics at play around fragile borders and their effect on trade, governance, and the day-to-day lives of local populations. Read about the [X-Border Local Research Network](#) and the Foundation's [conflict and fragility](#) programs.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the passing of two long-time former key Asia Foundation Korea staff.

Ben Kremenak, The Asia Foundation Korea's long-serving former country representative (1976-1981, 1984-1991) passed away on June 14. He was the Representative in Korea during both the Park and Chun military regimes. Upon retiring from The Asia Foundation, he was named Distinguished International Executive at the University of Maryland and was a Senior Fellow at the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM).

Park Tae-jin, the Asia Foundation's longest serving senior officer in Korea, passed away on July 10. Mr. Park joined The Asia Foundation in 1955 and served the Foundation for a half-century. Drawing on his longtime service and excellent memory, he wrote the 50th-anniversary history book on The Asia Foundation/Korea in 2004, a first of its kind publication for the Foundation.

We send our deepest condolences to their friends and families and thank them for their long service to The Asia Foundation.



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

The Asia Foundation • Washington, DC

1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 815, Washington, DC 20036

Tel: (202) 588-9420 • Fax: (202) 588-9409

dc.general@asiafoundation.org • asiafoundation.org