



The Asia Foundation



UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON DC

IN THIS ISSUE

[Advancing Peace on the Barren Soil of Strife](#)

[Flying Blind: Vietnam's Decision to Join ASEAN with Ambassador Nguyen Vu Tung](#)

[Challenges Facing the Pacific Islands: Disinformation, Climate and Gender](#)

[Philippines: A Data-Driven Peace Dividend for the Bangsamoro](#)

[Bangladesh: Women Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh: Barely Staying Afloat](#)

[Nepal: Pandemic Dramatically Alters Path of Migrant Workers](#)

[GovAsia Issue 2: More than the Sum of Their Remittances](#)

[Nepal: Planning and Budgeting in The Provinces of Federal Nepal](#)

[Timore-Leste: Timor-Leste Covid-19 Survey – September 2020](#)



EVENTS

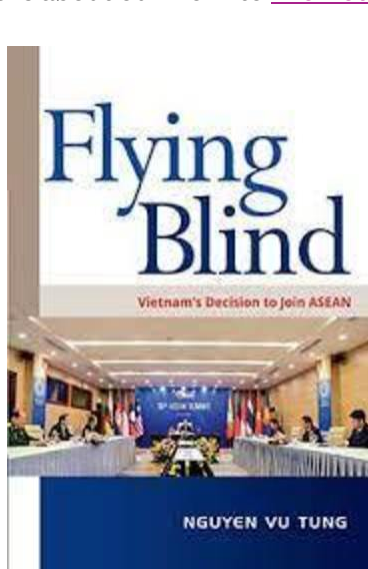
Upcoming Virtual Event – [Advancing Peace on the Barren Soil of Strife](#)

JUNE 15, 2021 – Amid disinformation, increasing polarization, and modern development that further exposes societal strains and inequalities, local organizations and individuals have generated innovative ways to support dialogue between warring factions and enable communities to solve differences before violence breaks out. Join Asia Foundation experts from [Nepal](#), the [Philippines](#), and the [Conflict and Fragility Program](#) for a timely discussion on the bold and groundbreaking actions of peacebuilders across Asia. Click [here](#) to register for the event.



Upcoming Virtual Event – [Flying Blind: Vietnam's Decision to Join ASEAN with Ambassador Nguyen Vu Tung](#)

JUNE 23, 2021 – Join The Asia Foundation for a discussion with Ambassador (Dr.) Nguyen Vu Tung on his book *Flying Blind: Vietnam's Decision to Join ASEAN*. Based on non-public official documents, rare personal interviews, and analytical research, Ambassador Nguyen provides valuable insight into [Vietnam's](#) decision-making, and the journey to better Vietnam-ASEAN relations, and subsequently, Vietnam's membership in ASEAN. Ambassador Nguyen is the current Ambassador to South Korea. Click [here](#) to register and to learn more about our work to [Promote International Cooperation](#).



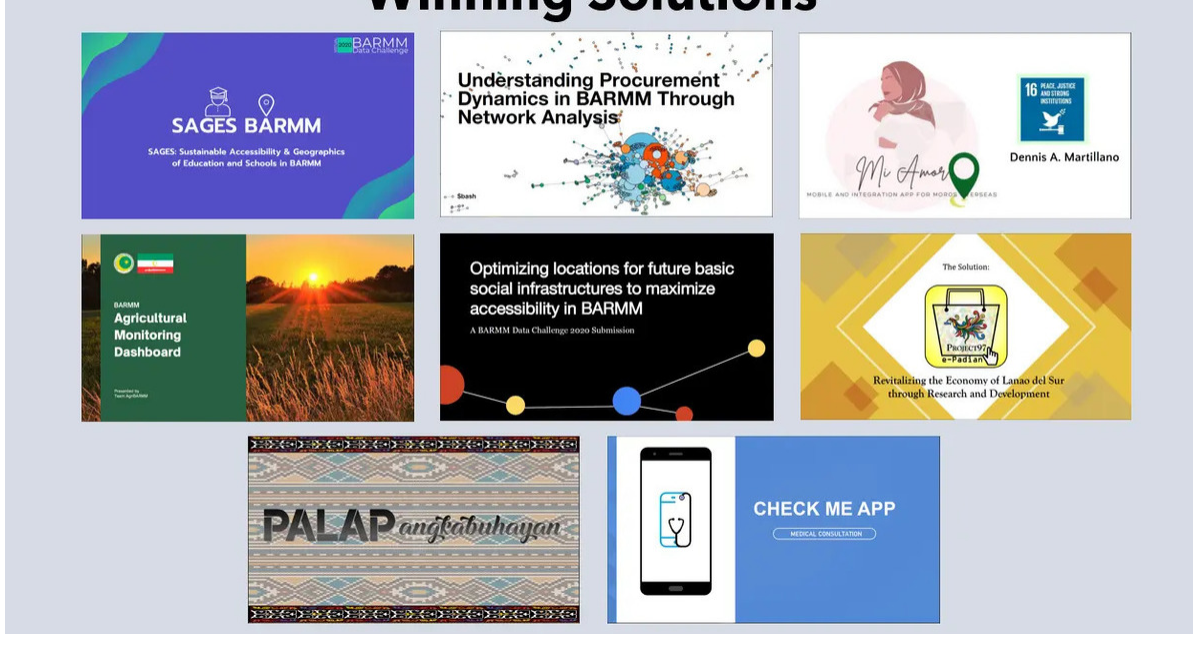
Upcoming Virtual Event – [Addressing the Covid-Related Challenges Facing the Pacific Islands](#)

JUNE 30, 2021 – Asia Foundation experts, including [Sandra Kraushaar](#), Director, Pacific Islands; [John Karr](#), Senior Director, Technology Programs; [Ellen Bocuzzi](#), Senior Advisor; and [Milika Sobey](#), Program Manager, Pacific Islands will explore development challenges in the region including [misinformation](#) and [connectivity](#), the climate crisis, the [future of work for women](#), and the impact of Covid-19 on development trajectories. Stay tuned for more information and learn about our work in the [Pacific Islands](#).

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

[Philippines: A Data-Driven Peace Dividend for the Bangsamoro](#)

This episode of InAsia highlights the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Data Challenge, which calls on Filipino data-science leaders and enthusiasts to innovate modern-day solutions that embrace data analysis as part of a renewal of governance. Winners designed solutions that leverage data to address four fundamental development goals for the BARMM. Learn more about our work in the [Philippines](#).



Winners of the 2021 BARMM Data Challenge.

[Bangladesh: Women Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh: Barely Staying Afloat](#)

In the last decade, women have made tremendous strides in Bangladesh. However, women entrepreneurs have continued to face obstacles such as limited access to financial services, restrictions on mobility, and constraining social norms. The pandemic has exacerbated these challenges and revealed just how few fallback options are available to women entrepreneurs in times of crisis. Learn more about our work to [Empower Women](#).

[Nepal: Pandemic Dramatically Alters Path of Migrant Workers](#)

As economies went into crisis in 2020, Asia's overseas migrant workers were among the first to lose their jobs. Millions returned home, while thousands more found themselves unemployed and stranded abroad. Learn how governments can support migrant workers, particularly vulnerable groups including women and undocumented workers, to bolster economic and social welfare both at home and abroad.



Migrant workers applying for Nepali passports before the pandemic. Hundreds of thousands are now coming home.

PUBLICATIONS

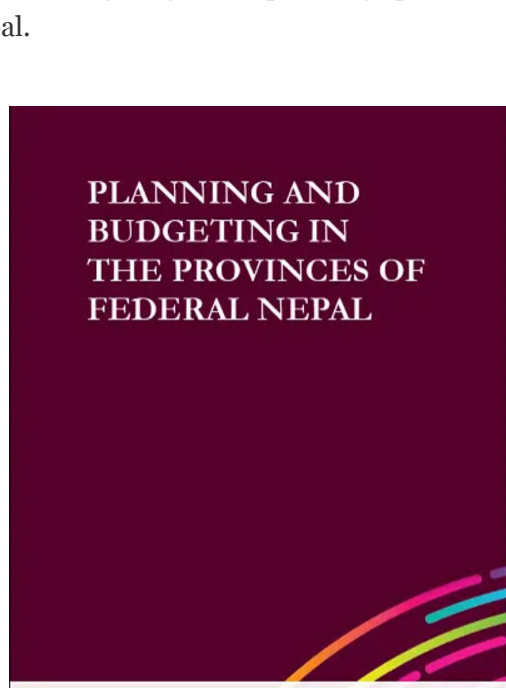
[GovAsia Issue 2: More than the Sum of Their Remittances](#)

Published four times a year, GovAsia provides a platform for the Foundation and its partners to examine the critical social, economic, and political problems facing citizens and governments across Asia. This issue explores the challenges and opportunities lower-middle income countries in Asia face in the wake of mass reverse migration movements in 2020, brought about by Covid-19. Learn more about our work to [Strengthen Governance](#).

[Nepal: Planning and Budgeting in The Provinces of Federal Nepal](#)

Following the adoption of a new federal system in 2015, and formation of a three-tier governance system in 2017, provincial governments in Nepal have been successful in creating a framework to manage public finances. However, there is limited information about provincial institutional structures and processes. To fill this knowledge gap, The Asia Foundation commenced this study to review legal and institutional arrangements, practices of fiscal federalism principles, and annual budgeting and planning processes, in Nepal.

The Government of Timor-Leste implemented policies to address the socio-economic shocks brought about by Covid-19. This included measures ranging from a State of Emergency that restricted the number of people leaving and entering the country, to direct cash transfers and food vouchers for citizens. This research aims to understand the concerns and lives of the Timorese people as well as their perceptions and attitudes towards their government during Covid-19.



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

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