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**EVENTS**

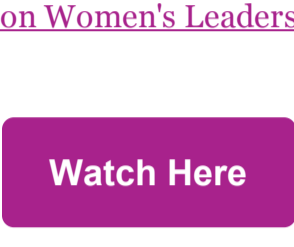
**Upcoming Virtual Event – The 2020 Elections in Myanmar: A Conversation with Ambassador Mark McDowell**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, voters in Myanmar will cast their ballots in a national parliamentary election. Country Representative for The Asia Foundation in [Myanmar](#) and former Canadian Ambassador to Myanmar, [Mark McDowell](#) will discuss Myanmar's democratic future given widespread violence and voter suppression, particularly against ethnic minorities. [Register here](#) for the event.

**Upcoming Virtual Event – Webinar Series: Changing Landscape of Development Cooperation Amidst and Beyond Covid-19 in Asia**

Amid the challenges of containing the spread of the pandemic and socio-economic crisis across Asia, the [Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation](#) (AADC) initiative aims to bolster Asia's preparedness by sharing knowledge and response to Covid-19. Organized by the Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management and the Asia Foundation, the AADC 2020 provides a forum for exchange of ideas among key international development experts in Asian nations, producing recommendations to be shared with the public. View the [program schedule](#) and [register](#) for the Nov. 11-13 webinar series.

**Recent Virtual Event - Summit on Women's Leadership in STEM: A Virtual Trilateral Event**



**OCTOBER 19-22, 2020** - Forty-seven [leaders](#) from Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the U.S. came together for the [Summit on Women's Leadership in STEM](#), a high-level virtual forum to share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices for developing and sustaining future generations of women leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Convened by The Asia Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, over 500 people registered for the virtual Summit from 36 countries around the world. [Watch Summit sessions](#) and [read the Joint Statement](#) from Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the U.S.

**Recent Virtual Event - Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia**

**OCTOBER 28, 2020** - [David M. Lampton](#), Selina Ho, and Kuik Cheng-Chwee examine China's effort to create an intercountry railway system connecting China and its seven Southeast Asian neighbors. Speakers illuminate the political strengths and weaknesses of the plan, as well as the capacity of the impacted countries to resist, shape, and even take advantage of China's wide-reaching actions.



**VOICES FROM THE FIELD**

**InAsia Podcast: Thailand: How to Sell an Avacado on Facebook**

This episode of InAsia highlights the Asia Foundation's [Go Digital ASEAN](#) online marketing training that builds digital literacy of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and small entrepreneurs to thrive in the digital economy. Thailand Senior Program Officer, Arpaporn Winijkulchai discusses her recent trip to northern Thailand to meet with long-time friend and avocado farmer, Lakela, who is expanding her business with skills gained through Go Digital.



*Avocado farmer, Lakela is expanding her business to online marketplaces.*

**Timor-Leste: A Flight Path to Recovery for Tourism in Timor-Leste**

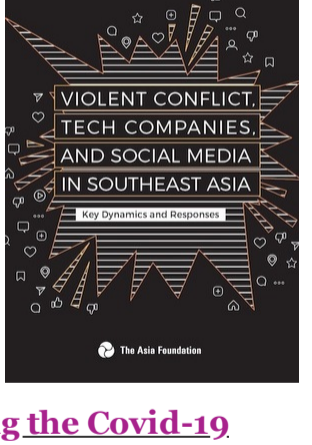


*Timor-Leste's natural beauty should be a magnet for tourists but thus far this goal has been out of reach.*

With only 30 cases of Covid-19, Timor-Leste is one of the few countries that has successfully contained the virus. However, the overall economic impact of the pandemic has been severe. The report [Covid-19 and the Alignment of Timor-Leste's Aviation and Tourism Strategies](#) advocates for regional travel agreements with countries that have similarly contained the virus and calls for strategies to safely resume [tourism](#) and initiate a much-needed boost to the economy.

**Southeast Asia: Violent Conflict, Tech Companies, and Social Media in Southeast Asia**

Online spaces are the new frontier of conflict and violence in Southeast Asia. This report draws on evidence from conflicts in the [Philippines](#) and [Myanmar](#) to fill a crucial gap in understanding and provide a broad analysis of how violent conflicts in Southeast Asia are shaped or affected by online platforms and social media. Read Asia Foundation Regional Director of [Conflict and Fragility](#), [Adam Burke](#) and Benjamin Lokshin's blog post "[In Southeast Asia, Violent Conflicts Move Online](#)" and stay tuned for an event in December on the report - more information to come in next month's newsletter.



**Asia: GovAsia Issue 1: Civil Society in Southeast Asia During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

This paper provides firsthand snapshots of civil society's role in and contributions to Covid-19 response efforts in Southeast Asia. It looks across the complex and diverse landscape of Southeast Asia and attempts to draw out some similarities in the experiences and observations of different civil society actors. Learn more about our [Governance program](#).

