



June 2013

In this issue: Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, Philippines, Conflict, Bangladesh, and Thailand.

Upcoming Events:



Ms. Palwasha Kakar

June 24- The Asia Foundation's Palwasha Kakar, Director of Women's Empowerment and Development for Afghanistan, will speak at the Woodrow Wilson Center's program on "Afghanistan Beyond the Headlines: Women, Youth, and the War".

June 27- The Asia Foundation's John Brandon, Director of Regional Cooperation, and Steven Rood, Country Representative to the Philippines, will join Vikram Nehru, Senior Associate for the Asia Program and Bakrie Chair in Southeast Asian Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and Kelley Currie, Senior Fellow, Project 2049

Institute, for a panel discussion which asks "Is Peace Breaking Out in Southeast Asia?".

June 28- Steven Rood, The Asia Foundation's Country Representative to the Philippines, will provide insights on the recent elections in the Philippines and the country's recent economic growth. He will explore how these events are shaping the future and whether they will have any impact on the Aquino administration's reforms.

Previous Events:



June 13- The Asia Foundation's Thomas Parks, Regional Director for Conflict and Governance, launched a groundbreaking new study, "The Contested Corners of Asia: Subnational Conflict and International Development Assistance" which explores the relationship between subnational conflict mitigation and development aid. Two of the study's co-authors Nat Colletta and Ben Oppenheim also participated, along with commentator Judith Dunbar. The World Bank's Ingo Wiederhofer moderated the discussion. To accompany the publication, The Asia Foundation has produced a variety of visual data representations.

The report is available for download.

Notes from the Field:

The Asia Foundation's Bangladesh Country Representative, Hasan Mazumdar, and the Foundation's Bangladesh Senior Program Advisor, Nazrul Islam, presented a workshop on promoting women's rights within an Islamic framework through madrasas in Bangladesh earlier this month. This training workshop brought together leaders and teachers from throughout Bangladesh to learn about promoting women's rights.

Publications of Interest:

The Asia Foundation's blog, *In Asia*, recently highlighted several articles on conflict affected areas by co-authors of "The Contested Corners of Asia" report. This includes an analysis by Don Pathan and Pauline Tweedie of the new talk of peace in Thailand's Deep South, Adam Burke further explores how the right kind of development could bring peace to Thailand and other countries, and Fermin D. Adriano examines the peace process in the Philippines' Mindanao.

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 programs address critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century—governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, environment, and regional cooperation. In addition, our Books for Asia and professional exchange programs are among the ways we encourage Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world. We welcome your comments, which can be sent to info@asiafound-dc.org. Please feel free to forward this update to colleagues and friends.