

# Philippines

The Asia Foundation's programs in the Philippines promote better governance to support economic growth, strengthen the rule of law, and foster peace and development in Mindanao. Building on its wide network of partners, the Foundation is helping government, local nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to strengthen democratic institutions and create sustainable economic growth.



## ECONOMIC REFORM

The Asia Foundation supports Philippine competitiveness in key sectors such as tourism, agri-business, and manufacturing through the provision of better infrastructure and improved access to credit. To improve productivity and export performance in the agricultural sector, it helps in upscaling production for exports of high value crops such as cocoa, coffee, and seaweeds. To increase reliable and lower cost transport service for agricultural goods, it provides technical support for the passage of the bills liberalizing inter-island shipping. It also provides technical assistance in the development and implementation of industry roadmaps. A focus on the tourism industry, with its potential for inclusive growth, leads to the Foundation supporting the Departments of Tourism and Public Works in their implementation of roads to enhance connectivity from a gateway (airport or seaport) to tourist sites.

To improve infrastructure, the Foundation supports collaborative partnerships between 15 provincial governments and local business associations, with a focus on economic infrastructure investments to make them more responsive to the needs of the communities, thereby increasing their efficiency and value. At the regional level, the Foundation supports the initiative of local business associations to support infrastructure investments with regional or inter-provincial impact;

and to advocate for increased investments in strategic projects identified by the local business sector. In 2015, three provinces received more than \$300 million of funding from the national government for strategic road projects identified through the process supported by the Foundation and its partners.

To promote more inclusive growth, the Foundation focuses on promoting secure property rights, particularly the implementation of the recently enacted Residential Free Patent Law providing for faster procedures to formalize nearly 8 million untitled residential properties. Since the law was passed in 2010 with Foundation support, over 230,000 families have received titles, surpassing the previous pace of land titling by 1,400 percent. To further increase this pace, local land management councils are supported throughout the country so that local governments can join the national Department of Environment and Natural Resources in promoting this reform.

## DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Asia Foundation's Fully Abled Nation (FAN) project has successfully built a strong coalition among government agencies, civil society organizations, disability people's organizations, private sector representatives, and local governments to advocate on a range of development issues relevant to persons with disabilities (PWDs). In the 2013



## PHILIPPINES

The Asia Foundation has been programming in the Philippines since 1954.

The Foundation works to make the Philippines's surging economic growth more inclusive.

The Foundation supports peace in Mindanao both through assisting communities to manage their own conflict, and through participation in the formal peace process.

midterm elections, some 66,000 people with disabilities were able to register to vote. FAN also helped in developing rules and policies focused on PWD voting. For the upcoming 2016 national and local elections, FAN works toward the policy implementation of accessibility laws and mechanisms and the full implementation of Accessible Polling Places.

## COUNTERING CORRUPTION

The Asia Foundation regularly supports an annual Enterprise Survey of Corruption, continuing a series started in 2000. The survey is implemented by Social Weather Stations (SWS) in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry's National Competitiveness Council of the Philippines and Makati Business Club. The survey is a time series measure of the experience of Philippine enterprise managers with corruption, and allows tracking of progress (or lack thereof) against corruption.

## LEGAL AND JUSTICE REFORM

To promote judicial efficiency and ensure the timely and predictable resolution of court cases, The Asia Foundation works with the Supreme Court in the implementation of a case decongestion project in 175 overloaded courts throughout the country. It is projected that 30 percent of these cases will be removed from the dockets of these courts by 2017. In addition, the Foundation is piloting reform measures to reduce court delays in civil and criminal cases such as the pilot of the continuous trial system for criminal cases and the pilot of the early submission of evidence and face-to-face trial for civil cases. Further, the Foundation promotes private mediation for business disputes by supporting the National Center for Mediation in training business mediators.

The Foundation is working with the Supreme Court to develop a long- and medium-term reform agenda. Reform areas include: 1) institutionalization of integrity and increasing credibility of the bench and the bar; 2) promoting rational, predictable, speedy, and appropriate judicial actions; 3) improving infrastructure, systems, and processes of the judiciary; and 4) improving the efficiency and effectiveness of human resources within the judiciary.

## CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

The Asia Foundation's program in Mindanao supports the peace process between the govern-



ment and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The Foundation's unique position as a trusted neutral actor allows it to implement activities geared at increasing the credibility of the peace process among local and national stakeholders and the general public.

The Foundation improves the implementation of the peace agreement as a member of the Third Party Monitoring Team, a body tasked to assess and monitor the implementation of all signed agreements by the government and the MILF. In partnership with local organizations, the Foundation helps raise public awareness and conduct information drives about the peace process; and broadens the constituency for peace by engaging with various sectors such as religious leaders, women, business, and youth. The Foundation also supports security sector reform particularly by strengthening civilian oversight of the military, pushing for security policy reforms, and enhancing civil-military engagements.

The Foundation has long worked to mitigate localized conflicts that may impact on the peace process, particularly persistent clan conflict known as *rido*. Empirical work has included publishing books, and the Foundation has supported partner organizations to mediate between warring parties and arrange settlements. Complementary to this are efforts to heighten voters' education and strengthen security protocols especially during elections, which are potential triggers for *rido*.

## BOOKS FOR ASIA

The Asia Foundation's longest-running program provides quality academic books for all levels of education at a rate of approximately 100,000 volumes per year to more than 2,000 schools and reading centers.

In the Philippines, The Asia Foundation's programs are also funded by the U.S. Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, UK's Department for International Development, and private organizations, companies, and individuals.

*The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.*



### HEADQUARTERS

465 California Street,  
9th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104 USA  
Tel: (415) 982-4640  
Fax: (415) 392-8863  
info@asiafound.org

### WASHINGTON, DC

1779 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Suite 815  
Washington, D.C. 20036 USA  
Tel: (202) 588-9420  
Fax: (202) 588-9409  
info@dc.asiafoundation.org

### PHILIPPINES

33rd Floor, One San Miguel Avenue Building  
San Miguel Avenue corner of Shaw Blvd.  
Ortigas Center, Pasig City,  
Philippines 1603  
Tel: + 63 (2) 722-9999  
Fax: + 63 (2) 853-0474  
philippines.general@asiafoundation.org

[www.asiafoundation.org](http://www.asiafoundation.org)