

THE ASIA FOUNDATION

Proposed Appropriation Language

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For a grant to the Asia Foundation, as authorized by the Asia Foundation Act (22 U.S.C. 4402), [\$16,000,000] \$16,230,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized. (*Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2009.*)

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Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	15,374	16,000	16,230	230

FY 2008 Estimates reflect the rescission of 0.81% provided by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161, Division J).

Overview

The Asia Foundation (TAF) is a private, nongovernmental organization (NGO) that advances U.S. interests in the Asia-Pacific region. For 54 years, working through its network of 17 offices in Asia, TAF has been a well recognized American organization, with programs grounded in Asia, helping to solve local problems in cooperation with Asian partners. TAF has local credibility, a nuanced understanding of the issues facing each country, and extensive access to and relationships with government, nongovernmental groups and the private sector. TAF programs and grants help develop institutions of democratic governance; support civil society development and peaceful conflict resolution; expand economic opportunity, including for women; and promote better understanding between the United States and countries of Asia. TAF operates throughout Asia, including in key front line states, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia, and China. Under the Asia Foundation Act of 1983, appropriated funds are the Foundation's single most important funding source, enabling it to maintain its strategic presence in key countries in the region.

Program Description

TAF's program priorities are developed in consultation with the Department of State and are closely aligned with U.S. foreign policy priorities and goals in Asia. Within the strategic goals of the Department, TAF focuses at the country and regional level to: build democratic institutions, the rule of law, and a strong and vibrant civil society; prevent extremism; supporting the policies and institutions required for open markets, trade and investment; increase opportunities for women's participation and protect women's basic rights; and encourage stability and cooperative relations among nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Democratic Institutions, the Rule of Law, and Civil Society

TAF's programs strengthen democratic institutions, governance and parliamentary processes, support democratic elections, foster accountability within governments, promote the rule of law and free and fair elections, and encourage a vibrant, tolerant civil society, including Muslim organizations working toward effective citizen participation in a democracy, developing strategies for conflict management and protecting human rights. TAF support extends beyond the formal structures of institutions by focusing on their performance.

Open Markets, Trade and Environmental Protection

TAF supports reform efforts that create more competitive markets, foster entrepreneurship, enhance the use of domestic capital, and attract vital foreign investment to Asian countries to bolster economic growth and create jobs. TAF's programs focus on removing barriers to economic growth through policy reform.

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Women's Political Participation

TAF has consistently advanced the role of women in Asian societies by increasing women's effective participation in political, economic and social life. Foundation programs build the capacity of women's organizations to increase access to education, fight trafficking through public awareness, reduce violence against women, protect women's basic rights, and help local organizations to develop effective policies and strategies to protect women's rights.

Stable and Cooperative Relations among Nations in the Asia-Pacific Region

TAF contributes to regional stability by helping develop a more skilled and well-informed diplomatic corps, and through informal U.S.-Asian dialogue on issues such as democratization, human rights, civil society, and regional economic policy.

In addition, TAF expanded the ongoing efforts of Books for Asia, the Foundation's most well known and highly recognized English language book donation program, which provided over 900,000 volumes each year, over 43 million since 1954, to academic institutions, government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

Justification of Request

With the \$230,000 requested in FY 2010, TAF will expand its shipments of books to Asian countries, to improve educational opportunity for thousands of Asia's youth, bolster technical capacity, and build libraries across Asia. TAF's program to operating cost ratio continues to be low and TAF's negotiated indirect cost rate of 14% continues to be low compared to other organizations.

TAF will expand its program into India, to increase its programs in support of women, environmental protection, and expanded regional linkages in South Asia. TAF will also increase its activities in Laos, where poverty and lack of resources have been a challenge for years. Few organizations work in Laos, yet TAF has had a history of cooperation with the Lao Women's Union, National Library, and other government institutions.

Funds by Program Activity

(\$ in thousands)

Activities	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
Asia Foundation Operation	15,374	16,000	16,230	230
Total	15,374	16,000	16,230	230

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
4100 Grants, Subsidies & Contrb	15,374	16,000	16,230	230
Total	15,374	16,000	16,230	230