



AFSC'S HISTORY IN ASIA

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has worked in Asia for eight decades. AFSC's focus has evolved from reconciliation and healing in the region's post-conflict areas to also include network and peace building and promoting peaceful business practices in the region's rapidly growing development sector. The work responds to local contexts and is bound by a search for truly shared solutions to shared problems.



The American Friends Service Committee and its work in Asia



American Friends Service Committee

afsc.org

AsiaRegion@afsc.org

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

AFSC ASIA STRATEGY

Working in the Mekong Region, Indonesia, China, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), AFSC Asia helps leaders and communities build resilience and create sustainable peace.



Our work in Asia

Building capacity and convening networks

As an organization that works for lasting peace with justice, AFSC plays a unique role in improving the knowledge and skills of people in partner communities, especially those in restricted societies and contested spaces.

By building the capacity of civil society leaders, policymakers, and government representatives, AFSC supports partners in transforming the drivers of conflict and the forces that have a negative impact on communities.

AFSC works to build trust and dialogue among key decision makers, engaging them in processes that can result in peaceful and practical solutions to shared problems. In North Korea, AFSC builds trust and works to increase crop productivity through decades of agricultural capacity building.

Promoting pluralism, celebrating diversity

In Asia, people's multiple ethnic and cultural identities extend beyond political boundaries and represent dynamic patterns of movement and cultural change.

AFSC promotes the expression of identity, encouraging peaceful understanding of differences in religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.

By engaging diverse communities in dialogue and exchanges, and cross-regional activities, AFSC works to reduce national tensions and promote a more positive and inclusive national identity in the face of ethnic and religious divisions in Southeast Asia. For example, AFSC and partners have organized Peace Torch celebrations promoting pluralism, involving government and religious leaders and diverse communities in five cities across Indonesia.

Promoting peace through U.S. diplomacy

AFSC advocates for diplomatic engagement over military enforcement, working towards more constructive partnerships in the region. By influencing U.S. policy toward diplomatic engagement, economic negotiation, and open dialogue with Myanmar, DPRK, and China, AFSC contributes to lasting peace in the region.

Encouraging positive business engagement

Investments in the Greater Mekong region have contributed to rapid growth in less-developed countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos, but have also brought with them displacement and conflict.

AFSC works to sensitize investors and development actors to engage multi-level stakeholders in investment decisions. Such engagement is meant to encourage peaceful and sustainable development, especially in cases when development affects natural resources and community livelihoods.

AFSC brings scholars and leaders to learn more from communities in Southeast Asia, building constructive partnerships and equitable processes. AFSC supports peace practitioners and experts from Asia, Africa, and around the world to build a global community grounded in shared security.

