



# Association for Asian Studies

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## Introducing the Association for Asian Studies Legacy Society

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Legacy Society recognizes the generosity of members and supporters who have included the AAS in their estate plans. Decades from now, these bequests will enable the Association to continue to encourage the study of Asia. We are grateful to those who have already included the AAS in their bequest intentions and hope this will inspire others to follow their lead.

With over 7,000 members the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) is the largest organization of its kind in the world. Tracing its history back to 1941, the AAS is also one of the oldest regional studies associations in North America.

While membership in many scholarly organizations has declined, the AAS has grown in recent years and attendance at AAS annual conferences has increased.

The AAS is growing at a time when the study of Asia has never been more important. Rapid economic, political, and social/cultural transformations are changing lives in Asia. These changes have a profound impact in the U.S. and around the world.

Yet Asia remains a relatively mystery to most Americans.

To deepen and broaden scholarship and understanding of Asia, the AAS Board of Directors has endorsed four priorities for future directions for the Association.

### The Broad Goals for the Future of the Association for Asian Studies

- **Internationalize the work of the AAS**, by bringing more scholars from Asia to AAS meetings, exploring possibilities for hosting AAS meetings or events in Asia, and seeking to bring participants from other parts of the world;
- **Diversify the voices of presenters and participants** to include more: (1) policymakers, journalists, public intellectuals, and people from applied fields such as public health, environmental studies, business, and the NGO world who study Asia; (2) social scientists, particularly economists, political scientists, and sociologists who have often been under-represented in the AAS; and (3) South and Southeast Asianists, who are also under-represented;
- **Attract and retain more graduate students and younger scholars;**
- **Increase the AAS' education and outreach work**, to build upon and strengthen its already significant commitment through *Education About Asia*, and *Key Issues in Asian Studies*.

New initiatives to reach these goals are helping us continue to serve the needs of a wide range of people concerned with Asia, from college and university faculty, to K-12 educators, independent scholars, librarians, museum curators, and graduate students in universities around the world. For example:

- **Keynote Addresses.** Beginning at the 2009 annual meeting in Chicago, we have introduced keynote addresses by high-profile policymakers and public intellectuals to show the linkages between scholarship and issues of current importance. To date, keynote speakers have included policy makers and scholars from Korea, China, Malaysia, and the U.S. We have invited speakers from India and Japan for the 2011 meeting.
- **Special Panels including Journalists and Public Intellectuals.** We have introduced special panels that include journalists, public intellectuals, policy makers, and people from NGOs. Special panels have included topics as varied as *How the Olympic Games Have Changed Asia and Asia Has Changed the Games* and *The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Asia*.
- **Topical Essays in the JAS.** The *Journal* has added a section entitled, "Asia Beyond the Headlines," a feature focused on topical issues and written by respected scholars who draw upon years of specialized research. These short, accessible essays speak across areas of specialization. They reach all AAS constituencies, including K–12 educators and policy makers.
- **Internationalization and Diversification of the Annual Meeting.** The AAS annual meeting has always attracted scholars from a range of disciplines and from North America, Asia, and around the world. But recent AAS outreach efforts and funding from foundations have increased the Association's ongoing efforts to "cross borders," whether disciplinary or geographic. We are experimenting with ways to bridge between the realms of scholarship, pedagogy, and outreach.

The AAS continues to explore new initiatives to reach these broad goals.

To ensure the future of the Association's efforts to grow, change, and meet new challenges, we invite you to consider including the Association for Asian Studies in your estate plans.

To fund the activities of the AAS into the future, we seek gifts to our four primary funds:

- **Donations to the AAS Endowment Fund** will guarantee the Association for Asian Studies' ability to support and expand the study of Asia.
- **Donations to the Fund for International Exchange** will enable scholars from Asia to attend an AAS annual meeting, to engage others with overlapping interests in Asia, and to begin building relationships that could last a lifetime. Each year, the number of requests from scholars in Asia to attend the AAS annual meeting increases, as do the costs of travel. If the AAS is to become truly international, we must find ways to bring more of these scholars to our meetings.
- **Donations for the Fund for Young Scholars** will help graduate students to attend an annual meeting of the AAS. As most of us know first-hand, attendance at an AAS meeting early in one's career is an invaluable experience for a young scholar entering the field. This fund also supports dissertation workshops where graduate students working on similar topics meet together for several days of discussion with other graduate students as well as senior scholars.

Gifts and bequest commitments to other AAS programs and activities are also welcomed, subject to the approval of the AAS Board of Directors.

**To discuss these possibilities, please contact Robert Snow, the Director of Development and Strategic Planning at [rsnow@asian-studies.org](mailto:rsnow@asian-studies.org).**

## How to Include the Association for Asian Studies in Your Will

Creating a bequest is as simple as adding a sentence or two to your will.

The following language is offered only as an illustration. The AAS strongly suggests that you consult your own legal counsel when preparing your estate plans. Please share the following suggested bequest language with your attorney.

While it is not necessary to inform the AAS that you have included the Association in your estate plans, it is very helpful for us to have that information.

We will publish a list of members of the Association for Asian Studies Legacy Society annually. If you would like to be included in the published, annual list, please provide your name as you would like it to appear:

\_\_\_\_\_.

If you would like to remain anonymous, we will of course respect your wishes.

Suggested bequest language:

### 1. Specific bequest

"I give to the Association for Asian Studies,

*[Select one of the following clauses, either (a) or (b)]:*

a) the sum of \_\_\_\_\_, [or]

b) the following property: \_\_\_\_\_,

*[Select one of the following clauses, either (i) or (ii)]:*

i) to be used for the benefit of the Association for Asian Studies for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_. [or]

ii) to be used for Association for Asian Studies purposes determined by the Board of Directors."

### 2. Residual bequest

"All (or \_\_\_%) of the residue of my estate, I give to the Association for Asian Studies,

*[Select one of the following clauses, either (i) or (ii)]:*

i) to be used for the benefit of the Association for Asian Studies for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_. [or]

ii) to be used for Association for Asian Studies purposes determined by the Board of Directors."

**If you would like more information about the AAS Legacy Society, please contact Robert Snow, AAS Director of Development and Strategic Planning at [rsnow@asian-studies.org](mailto:rsnow@asian-studies.org)**