

Beyond the Room

Reflections from

ASIA XCHANGE 25

6 - 8 OCTOBER
JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Vision for AsiaXchange

Over the past two decades, Asia has lifted more than a billion people out of poverty, yet climate change threatens to undo this progress. Potentially pushing 100 million back into poverty by 2030. Bridging this gap will require \$3 trillion annually for clean energy, sustainable infrastructure, and resilient food systems.

Responding to this urgent need, The Rockefeller Foundation curated AsiaXchange. A platform for bringing together **Asian leaders, from all walks of life**, government, business, philanthropy, and civil society to come together and leverage Asia's growth for **uplifting underserved communities and building shared prosperity**.



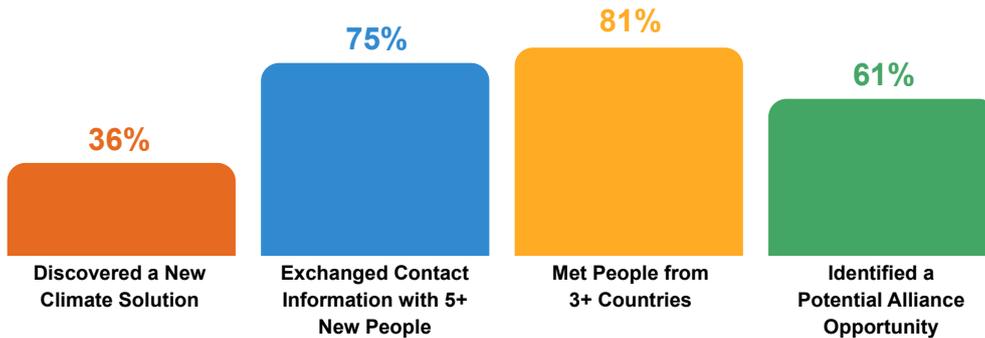
AsiaXchange 2025

Marked a leap from ideas to scale, bringing together over 370 in-person participants and 600 virtual attendees representing 150+ organizations across Asia and beyond, along with 20+ policy stakeholders and partners. A diverse mix of engagements designed to foster dialogue, innovation, and partnership:

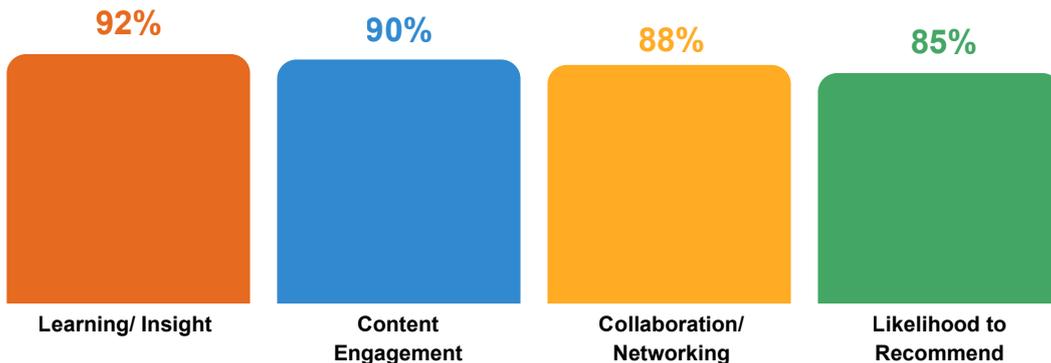
Inspire:	Connect:	Invest:
Surface inclusive, scalable solutions rooted in local realities.	Align actors to scale proven interventions through collaboration.	Mobilize catalytic finance toward high-impact, resilient solutions.

Plenary Sessions: 50+ regional and global leaders	12 Partner-Led Deep Dives co-created by 20+ knowledge partners	Showcases and Exhibitions: 24 organizations displayed cutting-edge innovations	Networking & Experiences: From the AsiaXchange Gala Dinner to Indonesian performances, local coffee tastings, and networking participants engaged in shared cultural experiences that deepened collaboration.
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AsiaXchange 2025 delivered measurable impact—advancing learning, strengthening networks, and catalyzing collaboration to uplift underserved communities across the region.



Dedicated Knowledge Partner Sessions provided deeper spaces for co-creation and learning, translating insights into actionable pathways for change.



What we learned at AsiaXchange 2025

- Regional Integration – From Shared Challenges to Shared Power
- Beyond Capital – The Private Sector as an Engine of Ideas and Inclusion
- Philanthropy 2.0 – Risk, Reciprocity and Real Collaboration
- Harnessing Asia’s Diverse Capital for Shared Prosperity
- Communities are the building blocks for national scale

Regional Integration – From Shared Challenges to Shared Power

Asia's strength lies in shared systems, not isolated successes — with regional platforms like ASEAN demonstrating how coordinated policy, financing, and implementation can amplify impact across borders. Policymakers from across ASEAN and national ministries emphasized the need to convert these frameworks into regulatory and budgetary instruments that speed up joint action on trade, energy, and resilience.

Asia's focus is on designing its own regional architecture, one that reflects its demographic scale, development pathways, and governance realities, creating systems grounded in local context rather than retrofitted from global templates.

“Asia must move from being a recipient of global systems to an architect of its own, aligning political, financial, and knowledge ecosystems to create shared progress.”

– Bambang Brodjonegoro, Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute



Asia's competitive advantage lies in regional collaboration and shared policy frameworks that transform local innovation into inclusive regional systems of change.

“True transformation demands collaboration between nations, sectors, and communities. Only by learning from one another can we build the resilience and prosperity Asia deserves.”

– Edi Pambudi, Deputy Minister for Coordination of International Economic Cooperation, Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia



Regional cooperation can move Asia from alignment to execution, as ASEAN and sub-regional platforms integrate trade, supply chains, and climate priorities into common frameworks.

“Asia has lifted millions out of poverty through manufacturing and services. Our next big lever is trade within Asia to create jobs, build resilience, and keep prosperity within the region.”

– Amitabh Kant, Former G20 Sherpa, Government of India



Beyond Capital – The Private Sector as an Engine of Ideas and Inclusion

Asia's private sector is redefining what it means to create generational success — proving that long-term growth depends not only on innovation and efficiency, but on inclusion and shared prosperity.

Enterprises are moving from growth to stewardship, recognizing that competitiveness is strengthened by investing in workers, communities, and the ecosystem

“The private sector must see itself not only as a driver of economic growth, but as a partner in inclusion. Building a competitive Asia means investing in workers, communities, and ecosystems that make growth sustainable.”

– Shinta Kamdani, Chairwoman, Indonesian Employers' Association (APINDO)



Governments and business coalitions are shaping markets rather than serving them—aligning policy incentives, innovation hubs, and investment frameworks to ensure prosperity is widely shared.

“We are not just attracting investment, we are shaping it to serve our people. Growth must be inclusive, innovation must be shared, and prosperity must be built together”

– Edi Pambudi, Deputy Minister for Coordination of International Economic Cooperation, Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia



Philanthropy 2.0 – Risk, Reciprocity and Real Collaboration

Philanthropy in Asia is evolving from a funding source into a strategic force— it must now operate as risk capital for transformation, deploying resources where they can generate the greatest leverage.

With philanthropic resources shrinking relative to need, the sector must focus on innovation and systems change, using catalytic funding to demonstrate new models and crowd in institutional and market capital for scale.

“If philanthropy is to be the region’s risk capital, we must be intentional about what risk we are absorbing and for whom.”

– Jennifer Lewis, Head, Collaboration & Partnership, Temasek Trust



Philanthropic institutions are increasingly seeking to partner with private capital through blended finance, but the field is still finding its footing. While intent is strong, approaches differ—due to technical capacity, impact measurement, and accountability—making it essential to build clearer frameworks and shared trust before collaboration can truly scale.

“Asian philanthropy must move from a project lens to a systems lens, blending finance, ideas, and accountability into shared missions.”

– Gabriel Leung, Director, the Institute of Philanthropy



Harnessing Asia’s Diverse Capital for Shared Prosperity:

Asia has ample wealth but fragmented pathways to deploy it effectively. Aligning private, institutional, and faith-based capital can transform this diversity into a shared engine for financing solutions that uplift vulnerable communities and build inclusive, self-determined growth.

The region’s next breakthrough will come from assessing and reorganizing its capital stack—creating mechanisms that connect private wealth, philanthropic intent, and public investment toward shared regional priorities.

“This is Asia’s moment to step up. We have the resources, the desire, and the platforms, we just need to act. The real opportunity now is to organize and mobilize Asia’s own wealth to fund Asia’s future.”

– Shaun Seow, CEO, Philanthropy Asia Alliance



Across Asia’s diverse faith traditions—Islamic finance, Buddhist giving, Hindu philanthropy, and Christian social investment—faith-based capital represents a vast yet underutilized resource. Rallying these values-driven funds under a shared commitment to inclusion and climate action could unlock not just new financing streams but a unifying moral mandate for Asia’s development.

“Faith-based and values-driven finance are the region’s untapped engines for climate and inclusion. They expand both our resources and our sense of responsibility.”

– H. Mokhamad Mahdum, Vice Chairman, National Board of Zakat for the Republic of Indonesia (BAZNAS)



Communities are the building blocks for national scale

The region's progress will be measured not by the number of projects scaled, but by how deeply innovation uplifts communities and strengthens local systems that improve lives. Asia's next wave of impact will come from solutions built with communities, empowering people to lead their own progress.

Community-led models are redefining what “scale” means—replication is giving way to adoption, where proven local ideas are absorbed into systems and policies that endure over time.

“Communities are already leading the way in protecting nature and building resilience. Our responsibility is to amplify their voices and ensure that policy and finance reach those who need it most.”

– Dia Mirza, Actor & UNEP Goodwill Ambassador



Local innovators are blending traditional knowledge with modern tools to build resilient ecosystems, demonstrating how inclusion and sustainability can advance together.

“We began by teaching women in remote villages to build solar water systems... proving that sustainability can start with one light, one leader, one village.”

– Mustika Wijaya, Big Bets Fellow



Governments are increasingly embedding people-centered approaches into national programs, showing that community insight and public policy can reinforce each other. Policymakers emphasized that impactful systems change starts with local leadership who showcase proven models that governments can scale.

“True security comes when we invest in the systems that keep our people healthy before they fall ill.”

– H.E. Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Minister of Health, Republic of Indonesia



“Every child deserves not just a full stomach, but a fair chance—from nutrition in early childhood to opportunity in adolescence.”

– Tigor Pangaribuan, Deputy of System and Governance, National Nutrition Agency, Republic of Indonesia



What are we building together post AsiaXchange 2025

AsiaXchange 2025 marked a shift from dialogue to design—translating collaboration into commitments that improve lives and uplift communities. Across partner-led sessions, participants committed to advancing tangible collaborations that extend beyond Jakarta. From blended finance to data ecosystems, regenerative food systems, and energy transitions, new alliances and platforms are taking shape — led by Asian institutions, backed by shared ownership, and driven by the belief that scale must be built, not declared.

ASPIRE and AVPN's session, Asia's New Poly-tunity, set out two 12-month action tracks to operationalize blended finance through catalytic capital and nationally led investment platforms.

- *Supply unlocks: Dialogue with catalytic capital holders, mapping sectoral opportunities, and strengthening funder confidence.*
- *Demand unlocks: Capacity-building for national platforms, investor matchmaking, and embedding financing into policy and regulatory frameworks.*



CivicDataLab's session, From Silos to Systems: Enabling AI & Data Sharing to Advance Climate–Health Innovations, identified two immediate priorities to advance climate–health resilience by strengthening regional data sharing and institutionalizing the Asia-Pacific Climate Health Data Collaborative.

- *Create a regional registry of high-value climate-health datasets and AI use cases to foster cross-country learning.*
- *Institutionalize the Asia-Pacific Climate Health Data Collaborative as a long-term platform for joint research, innovation, and policy alignment. Multiple organizations expressed intent to contribute, establishing a foundation for an enduring digital public good for the region.*



The Climate Policy Initiative and RMI's session, From Projects to Policy, charted two forward actions to accelerate Asia's coal-to-clean transition through cross-country learning and diversification of renewable energy pipelines.

- *Connect project developers and policymakers across Asian markets to accelerate learning and replication.*
- *Advance multiple project types to diversify the regional pipeline for renewable energy and transition projects. The Rockefeller Foundation and its partners will support expansion of this pipeline across Asia and globally through 2026.*



The World Food Programme's session, Transforming Food Systems through School Meals, and Grow Asia and TIFS's session, Agroecological and Regenerative Approaches, committed to scaling locally led models for nutrition and regenerative agriculture through ASEAN coordination and farmer-focused finance.

- *WFP will support ASEAN-wide coordination and Indonesia's Makan Bergizi Gratis programme, with Cambodia leading a regional landscape analysis for school meals.*
- *Grow Asia & TIFS will translate workshop outcomes into lighthouse projects supporting Indonesia's regenerative agriculture leadership, combining insurance-linked finance and outcome-based payments for farmers.*



Looking Ahead

As AsiaXchange 2025 draws to a close, one truth stands plainly: Asia's next decade of progress will be judged not by the speed of its growth, but by how deeply it lifts its people. From the remote village to the emerging town, from the young woman seeking her first job to the small-holder farmer adapting to climate change.

At The Rockefeller Foundation, we believe the region possesses the ideas, networks, and capital to deliver inclusive transformation—but we must act with intention and humility. AsiaXchange has shown us that when public policy, business innovation, philanthropic risk capital, and community leadership come together with purpose, the barriers between growth and equity begin to fade.

In the months ahead, our focus will be on deepening the partnerships formed in Jakarta: embedding solutions in national systems, mobilizing finances around measurable social change, and amplifying community-led innovation as the engine of scale. We will work to ensure that no one is left behind, that prosperity becomes an engine of dignity, and that Asia's growth story includes every voice.

Thank you.

Deepali Khanna

Senior Vice President & Head of Asia
The Rockefeller Foundation

