The Asia Foundation has developed new programs to accelerate and expand support for women entrepreneurs, women at the frontline of climate-change response, and women leading peace and security efforts in Asia. Recognizing the vital importance of women’s political voice and participation, the Foundation is also targeting countries in Asia where there are national elections in the next two years and working with local partners to get more women into political office. Important here are coupling support for building grass-roots movements and connecting women leaders and organizations to key forums to increase their policy influence. Jane Sloane will share the rationale and approach for these key programs to advance women’s empowerment and gender equality and the crucial role that collaboration and partnership are playing in the development and implementation of these programs.

**Jane Sloane** is director of the Women’s Empowerment Program with the Asia Foundation. She provides intellectual and programmatic leadership for the Asia Foundation’s programs to empower women and advance gender equality in Asia. Ms Sloane was previously Vice President of Programs, Global Fund for Women and her other previous roles include Vice President of Development with Women’s World Banking in New York and Executive Director of the International Women’s Development Agency in Australia. She holds a Master’s degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Sydney and a B.A. (Hons) from the University of Adelaide. She is an Atlantic Fellow with the Inequalities Institute at the London School of Economics (LSE), an Advisory Board member at LSE’s Centre for Women, Peace, and Security, and a Patron of Marie Stopes International. Her blog is Janeintheworld.