

\$68 million donated to support regional peace and security

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The MacArthur Foundation is donating 68 million dollars to 27 institutions around the world.

The donation under the private philanthropy's Asia Security Initiative is aimed at fostering peace and security in Asia.

Jonathan Fanton is President of the MacArthur Foundation.

In this day of shifting relations between states and growing transnational challenges, the nations of the Asia Pacific are thinking anew about how our societies can develop new ideas, new frameworks, or even new regional institutions to foster peace and security. These 27 institutions will lead advances in security policy research, forge productive relationships between scholars and practitioners around the world and bring these new ideas and frameworks to policymakers and the public.

ASEAN's Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan, who was speaking at the launch of the initiative, welcomed the donation to the institutions.

"This Asian Security Initiative is helping us ask and define that question of how to manage security challenges in a flat world where barriers and borders used to protect us. Without them, we are mutually exposed to each other's problems. So we have to go the regional way, we have to go the way that you are adopting, with the help of the MacArthur Foundation."

The grantmaking focuses on three themes: strengthening regional cooperation, preventing conflict in Northeast Asia and building international cooperation to respond to internal challenges.

The 27 institutions receiving the donations are grouped according to these themes.

The institution that will be receiving the largest amount - 2.5 million dollars - will be Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies or RSIS.

RSIS will be directing the group of institutions that will build international cooperation to respond to internal challenges.