

# ASIA HOUSE

HOME OF BUSINESS - CULTURE - PEOPLE



PHOTO FROM [SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST](#)

## UNPRECEDENTED

These days, the word “unprecedented” has taken on a new meaning and is everywhere, the only term that truly captures what is happening around us – from HM Queen Margrethe II’s speech to the Danish people, to parked airplanes lining up on the runways – all as a result of the Coronavirus.

While more and more countries close down, economies crack and markets tumble, the human mind is feverishly trying to do what it is best at: finding patterns, based on previous experiences and knowledge. But it fails, because the situation is indeed *unprecedented*.

Economic scientists are trying to give guidance and point to potential opportunities, while the news media and various organizations sort, filter, and feed jumbles of information to the pattern-searching minds.

Once this unprecedented uncertainty and the spread of the coronavirus have been contained, the global community will need to digest and adapt to the many new lessons learned. Already, some things are evident: sharing information, decisive actions, and taking responsibility are qualities that will define who best will weather this crisis, as well as those to come.

The mission of Asia House is to connect Denmark with Asia, promoting business opportunities

and cooperation. We very much look forward to opening up new avenues for this when the crisis is over. Stay safe and healthy!

**Susanne Rumohr Hækkerup**

Executive Director



*PHOTO FROM THE DANISH HEALTH AUTHORITY*

## **ASIA HOUSE IS CLOSED**

Due to the national efforts to contain the further spread of the Corona virus, all activities in Asia House are suspended until further notice, and the Asia House secretariat is working from home, contact us via [ah@asia-house.dk](mailto:ah@asia-house.dk). We hope everyone is staying safe and following official guidelines. Asia House would like to express our grateful thanks to everyone working to ensure the critical functions in our society, from healthcare personnel to cashiers in grocery stores.

We look very much forward to see you all again soon.



## **INNOVATION LAB ASIA**

After months of planning and preparation, Innovation Lab Asia set out for Japan, equipped with electronics and 38 kilos of printed reports in our suitcases. The report presented the Nordic ecosystem to a Japanese audience – in the Japanese language, for the first time ([click here to see the report](#))! 40 meetings were planned for nine days of travel across the cities of Fukuoka, Kyoto, Kobe, Osaka and Tokyo.

The main focus of the first week (17-21/2) was to meet key stakeholders and community. The delegation included Peter Johansen ([Asia House](#)), Julian Nielsen ([TechBBQ](#)), Lisa Mallner ([CopCap](#), formerly [TechBBQ](#)), Oliver Hall ([CopCap](#)), Bjørn Lapakko ([Startup Extreme](#)) and Martin von Haller ([Nordic Makers VC](#)). The second week (24-28/2) had more of an investor focus, and included Arne Blix ([AccA VC](#)), Ivar Siimar ([Trind Ventures](#)) and Gerri Kodres ([United Angels VC](#)).

Innovation Lab Asia has naturally been affected by the Coronavirus (though luckily not healthwise!) - one of our main milestones - the tech festival Latitude59 in Tallinn - has been postponed to late-August. Others may follow. However, we count ourselves lucky that we made that crucial trip to Japan before the lock-down, and that there is plenty of work to do following up on our new connections and strengthening the Nordic network.

So... Any Nordic stakeholders looking to connect with the Japanese innovation ecosystem, please don't hesitate to contact us!

# NORDIN

THE INDO-DANISH  
SME PLATFORM



## **NORDIN**

Seven weeks ago, NORDIN successfully completed its first cohort. The results confirm our basic assumption, that given the right measure of mentoring and support, Danish SMEs have plenty of opportunity in India. Of the 11 selected companies of NORDIN cohort 2019, 8 completed the program and 7 are now active in India.

Since then, the project has been preparing for the second round; streamlining the NORDIN methodology, creating a new website, strengthening our PR-activities, and formulating the recruitment strategy for cohort 2020. Early March we started our outreach activities for the 24 Danish SMEs to be selected – now we are struck by the lock down.

Naturally this is a challenge. However, we believe the great commercial benefits that await Danish SMEs in India transcend the (hopefully) temporary disruption provided by the Coronavirus. There is a massive Indian demand for solutions that cater to the UN SDG's, and plenty of Danish companies with the right product fit. We at NORDIN will continue connecting these dots.

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## INTRODUCING ...

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**MIKKEL BEYER MOGENSEN**, the new Asia House Project Manager, who has broad experience working within corporate environments across the technology and energy sectors, as well as in start-ups and investment banking targeting emerging markets. Mikkel maintains avid engagements in a variety of roles across several Danish and international organizations focused on sustainable development, innovation and entrepreneurship. Together with Asia House Project Manager Peter Johansen, Mikkel will be working with current Asia House projects NORDIN and Innovation Lab Asia, as well as focusing on the development

of new and innovative projects.

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## PREVIOUS EVENTS IN ASIA HOUSE

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### **21.01.20: International Mother Language Day**



PHOTO BY: HASSE FERROLD

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Denmark celebrated its annual International Mother Language Day on 21 February at Asia House again this year. Featuring music and dances by performers from India, Bangladesh, China, Nepal and Denmark, and serving Bangladeshi delicacies, the multicultural event saw an impressive turnout. Speeches by Anna Enemark, Secretary General to the Danish UNESCO National Committee, Professor Per Bruun Brockhoff, Head of Department at DTU Compute, and the Ambassador of Bangladesh, H.E. Muhammad Abdul Muhith paid tribute to Mother Language Day, which commemorates those who lost their lives defending the Bengali Language Movement and honouring linguistic and cultural diversity.

### **27.02.20: Indonesian Embassy celebration**



PHOTO BY: HASSE FERROLD

In celebration of Indonesia's 70 years of diplomatic relations with Denmark, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia hosted a reception on 27 February at Asia House. Denmark's Permanent Secretary of State, Lars Gert Lose, made a speech to mark the occasion, as did the Indonesian Ambassador to Denmark, H.E. Muhammad Ibnu Said (both pictured). The well-attended event also featured a performance by traditional Balinese dancers.

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## GOODBYE TO...

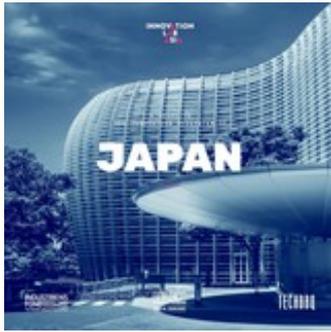
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**SIGNE WEBER CARLSEN**, Admin and Project Coordinator, who was a key member of the Asia House secretariat for more than two years. We wish Signe all the best in her new pursuits - with both family and career - in Aarhus.

# INNOVATION LAB ASIA REPORTS

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## **ASIA HOUSE / YOUR ACCESS TO ASIA**

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EU's privacy regulation GDPR came into force on 25 May 2018. Asia House has updated its Privacy Policy and these changes reflect the increased transparency requirements of the EU GDPR. The revised policy clarifies your privacy rights and how to exercise them; how Asia House collects, uses, shares and protects personal data; and the legal bases we rely on

to process personal data. Please click here to read our updated [Privacy Policy](#).

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