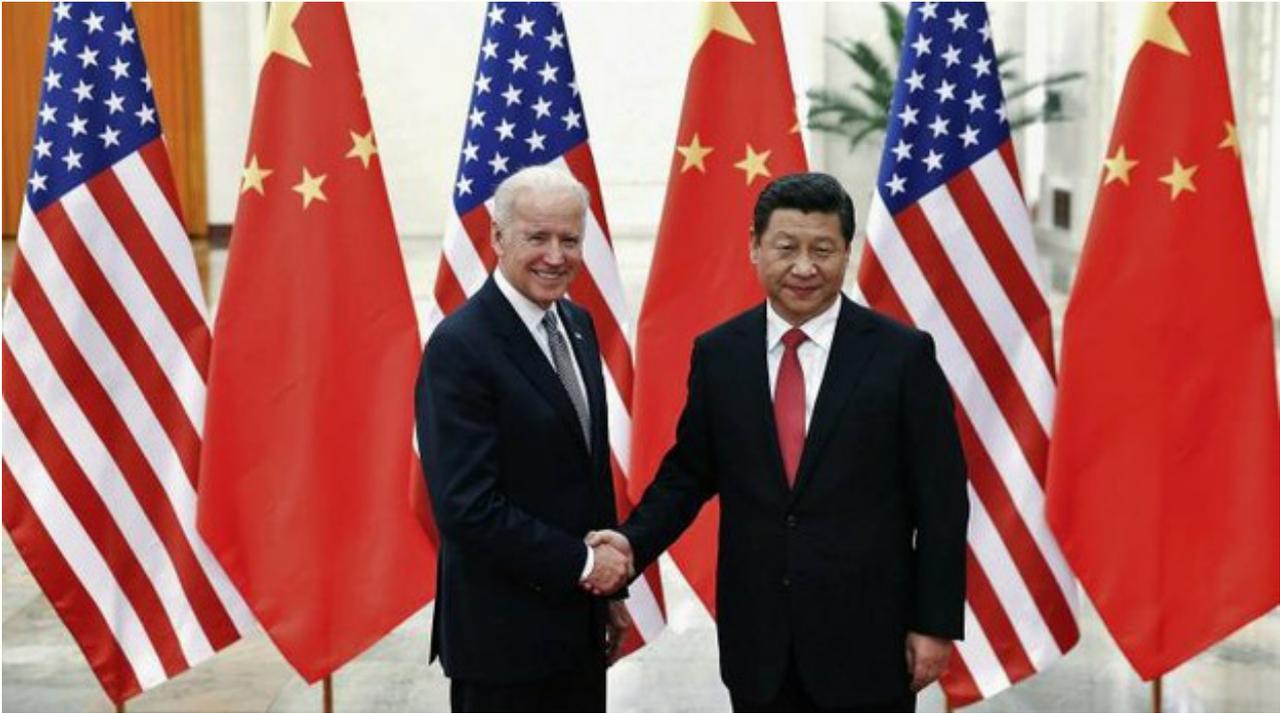


# ASIA HOUSE

HOME OF BUSINESS - CULTURE - PEOPLE



VICE-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN MEETS CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING IN 2013. PHOTO: [FINANCIAL TIMES](#)

## POWER CHANGES

Like the rest of the global community, Asian countries have closely followed the US presidential election during these past weeks. As Joe Biden was unofficially announced winner, on 8 November congratulations from [Japan](#), [India](#), [Philippines](#), [Indonesia](#), [South Korea](#), [Thailand](#), and [Australia](#) began pouring in, and an [official Chinese newspaper](#) ran an interesting analysis on expectations for Biden's foreign policy. [China](#) congratulated Biden on 13 November. President-elect Biden made his first direct contact to the leaders of [Japan](#), [South Korea](#) and [Australia](#) on 12 November and [India](#) on 17 November.

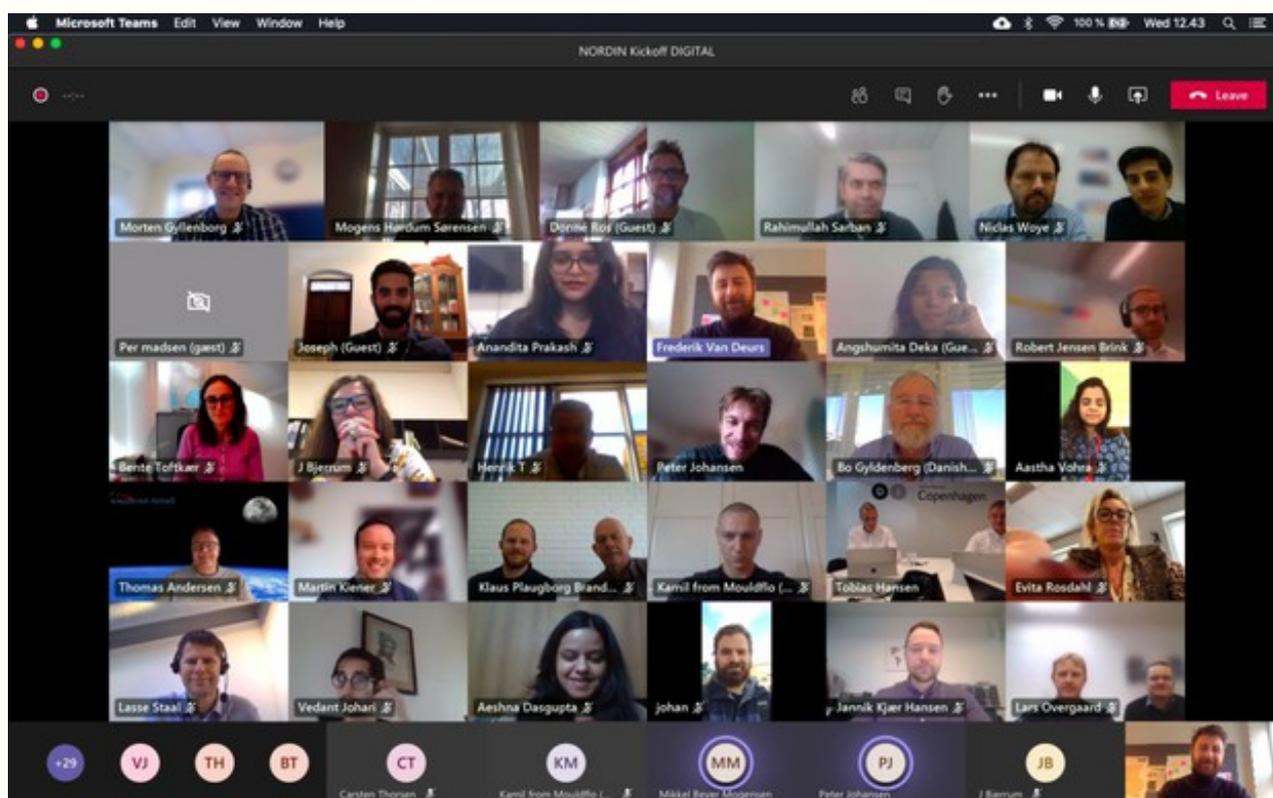
Joe Biden is well-known to Asia, and to many Asian leaders personally, having served as vice-president for eight years until only four years ago and prior to having chaired the US Senate's Foreign Policy Committee for more than ten years. On the other hand, things unfold quickly: when Biden left office in January 2017, the US and partners were negotiating the [TIPP](#), the huge Trans Pacific trade agreement. As the Trump Administration withdrew, the 11 other parties signed the [CPTPP](#) which on 30 December 2018, came into effect in the first six countries to ratify the agreement - Canada, Australia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, and Singapore.

Furthermore, while the US presidential election is still under certification, on 15 November another hugely important trade agreement was agreed upon as 15 countries signed the

RCEP, linking Asian-Pacific members of the CPTPP to all ASEAN members and to China. The RCEP will encompass around one third of the world's population and output. The new US administration will have to engage with Asia on different terms than when Biden left the White House in January 2017. On 12 November, the Vietnamese presidency chaired the annual (this year virtual) ASEAN Summit and subsequent summits with China, Japan, India, and Korea. No senior US politician participated. Brunei as next ASEAN chair must wait and see if Biden or vice-president Harris will join in 2021.

## Susanne Rumohr Hækkerup

Executive Director



## NORDIN 2020 KICKOFF

News from NORDIN, an Asia House Project

Two weeks ago, NORDIN – The Indo Danish SME Platform – had our official kick-off event with all 24 cohort companies participating. With COVID-19 being the new normal, the team was forced to reorganize and divide the day-long kick-off into shorter and specific themed virtual events. The first event offered an opportunity for the cohort to e-meet the entire NORDIN team, as well as each other, while presenting the next steps ahead.

We were also lucky to have two special guests joining the event to share success stories of their India journey. The guests were Kasper Tørpe from Lithium Balance, a Danish battery technology company, and Lubomir Bartejs representing EcoBeta, a water saving technology company, who was a part of the first NORDIN cohort. The event was wrapped up with a presentation of the next NORDIN webinars taking place over coming months, in addition of a group photo of the NORDIN team and 2020 cohort. The team was pleased to see the great turnout and level of engagement, and we are looking forward to upcoming events.



## #NORDICMADE NEWSLETTER

News from [Innovation Lab Asia](#), an Asia House Project

The Nordic countries often seem to excel in global rankings. Also within AI! According to the annual ranking of [Government AI Readiness](#), published by Oxford Insights 25.09.2020, Finland ranks # 3, Sweden # 5, Denmark # 8, Norway # 10, and Estonia # 17 (Japan ranked # 13) in terms of “capabilities and enabling factors required for a government to be ready for AI implementation”.

To be fair, this ranking does not reflect the actual implementation of AI, nor strength of the AI tech ecosystem, but it does “reflect the preconditions necessary to boost AI development: digital societies, digitally savvy citizens and supportive governments that recognize the value of going digital” ([e-Estonia.com](#)).

In this editorial we provide a quick overview of the Nordic AI ecosystem, and perhaps more importantly, where you should look for additional information.

In general, Sweden and Finland are the leaders of the Nordic AI pack. The Swedish government has followed a clear strategy for advancing AI development, launching [AI Sweden](#) in February last year. Also, in Sweden the Wallenberg Foundation has invested EUR 300 million into AI, mainly via the Wallenberg AI program [WASP](#).

Right now, AI Sweden, [Ignite Sweden](#) and RISE are screening Sweden to find the best AI startups. Last week, the first 90 Swedish AI startups were presented on the [Swedish AI landscape map](#). More may follow. Deadline for registration was 30 October.

Finland has followed a broader path to AI excellence, involving the whole society in the AI transformation. Thus, the University of Helsinki and Reaktor Ventures have launched [The Elements AI Program](#), a free online course on the basics of AI. So far, more than 500,000 have joined.

In September 2020, FAIA (Finland’s state funded Artificial Intelligence Accelerator) presented a key report “[State of AI in Finland](#)” that provides a comprehensive outlook of the Finnish AI sector. According to the report, there are more than 400 AI startups in Finland, and some 50 new companies established yearly. The 2020 Global Startup Ecosystem Report identified Helsinki as the top European AI ecosystem along with London and Berlin. The report contains several AI use cases with Finnish AI startups, that may be of interest to foreign investors, as does the [City of Helsinki](#).

Also the other Nordic countries have relatively strong AI ecosystems. According to a [recent McKinsey study](#) (2019), “Denmark is at the forefront of research in several AI sub-disciplines, with particularly strong environments in algorithmics, machine learning for audio, robotics and computer vision, and natural language processing”.

Nordic AI companies may not be as well known globally, and many of the startups operate on stealth mode. However, Nordic AI companies in areas such as Healthcare and Cybersecurity are scaling rapidly and Nordics are projected to remain leaders in the ecosystem. Also, many Estonian AI startups have already received investments from Japanese investors, including, Realeyes, Veriff, Transferwise and Bolt.

Also, Deeptech is a Nordic stronghold. [Nordic.AI](#) - a non-profit, community-based organization that supports the Nordic AI community - has tracked over 400 AI startups in the Nordics, many of which work in this area.

Feel free to contact you for further information. We can connect you to the right people and organizations.

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## INNOVATION LAB ASIA REPORTS

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## SPECIAL MENTIONS

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### **Welcome to the new Bangladeshi Ambassador to Denmark**

Asia House welcomes the new Ambassador of Bangladesh, H.E. M. Allama Siddiki. Previously an Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey, Ambassador Siddiki has worked in the Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry for almost three decades, and has been posted to London, Tokyo, and Calcutta, among other places. Asia House looks forward to working with H.E. M. Allama Siddiki and continuing our friendship with the Embassy of Bangladesh in Denmark.

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## HAPPENING IN ASIA HOUSE

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## EXHIBITION IN ASIA HOUSE

All of our uniquely original EAC posters have been put on display in Asia Houses EAC Lounge, adding a splash of colors to the walls of Asia House. The exhibition featuring these artworks is now available to the public, and soon you will be able to buy reprints to decorate the walls of your home.

Asia House will reprint a select few of these posters, and on EventSpace Asia House's social media, you can vote for your favorite poster and participate in a competition to win a reproduction of the most popular one! Check out our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to win.

## CHRISTMAS IN ASIA HOUSE



# Don't miss out on Christmas!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES ARE STILL POSSIBLE AT ASIA HOUSE UNDER CORONA-SAFE CONDITIONS FOR UP TO 25 PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS.

CONTACT US ABOUT YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY ON [EVENTSPACE@ASIA-HOUSE.DK](mailto:EVENTSPACE@ASIA-HOUSE.DK)

FOLLOW EVENTSPACE ASIA HOUSE



## Protect yourself and others



Wash your hands frequently or use an alcohol-based hand rub



Cough or sneeze into your sleeve



Limit physical contact



Be diligent with cleaning



If you are older or have a chronic illness, avoid crowds of people and advise others to be aware of your condition

PHOTO FROM THE DANISH HEALTH AUTHORITY

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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](#).

If you should no longer wish to receive emails and news from Asia House, please contact us and your data will be removed from our list and you won't receive emails or invitations from us in the future.

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