

ASIA HOUSE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025



ASIA HOUSE

HOME OF BUSINESS – CULTURE – PEOPLE

Welcome to the February Asia House Newsletter

Discover this month's highlights, updates, and cultural delights

Stay tuned for real-time updates on Asia House activities [here!](#)

We've been busy strengthening connections between Denmark and Asia through youth initiatives, insightful discussions, and cultural celebrations.

From presenting at Niels Brock about Asia's global significance to hosting the latest Living Asia event on why young people should engage with the region, we continue to foster learning and collaboration.

Dive into this month's highlights, and don't forget to follow us on Instagram for exclusive glimpses into our events!

Shifting Balances on a Global Scale

February may be the shortest month, but four weeks' impact on global politics can be profound. This year's Munich Security Conference starkly revealed the widening gap between the United States and Europe in their worldviews, political priorities, and approaches to international law—trends that have accelerated since 20 January with the new U.S. administration.

On 24 February, the somber third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, all United Nations member states were forced to navigate these shifting geopolitical currents. Some might dismiss the UN as having lost too much power and credibility to matter, given its struggles to fulfill its primary mission of protecting humanity from war, hunger, and mistreatment. Yet such a conclusion would be misguided. At the UN, each government must reveal its true position on the global stage. The Trump administration's decision to side with Russia marked a dramatic departure from American foreign policy since 1945. Similarly, Europe's refusal to align with the U.S. signaled its own significant shift. Asian nations, too, found themselves at a crossroads:

North Korea stood alone among Asian nations in siding with the U.S. and Russia during the General Assembly vote on Ukraine's resolution.

Several countries voted alongside Europe and Ukraine: **Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.**

Others chose to abstain: **Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.**

These voting patterns reflect the complex realignment of global alliances in a rapidly changing international order.

Susanne Rumohr Hækkerup

Navigating Asia: Youth, Education, and Career Opportunities



This week, we hosted *Navigating Asia*, the fourth event in our youth-centered *Living Asia* series.

Living Asia is part of Asia House's youth strategy, serving as a dynamic hub for students and young professionals in Denmark with an interest in Asia. The initiative aims to raise awareness and understanding of Asia among Danish youth while offering opportunities for cultural exchange, networking, and professional development.



We were honored to have [Christian Føhrby](#), Public Affairs Manager at Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, as our keynote speaker. Christian delivered a nuanced presentation that challenged the audience by giving highly entertaining examples of how little is known in Europe about present-day Asia's cultural icons — and highlighted the region's significance and opportunities for young people. Drawing from his experience in diplomacy, sustainability, and business, he shared key insights from his time working and studying across Asia.

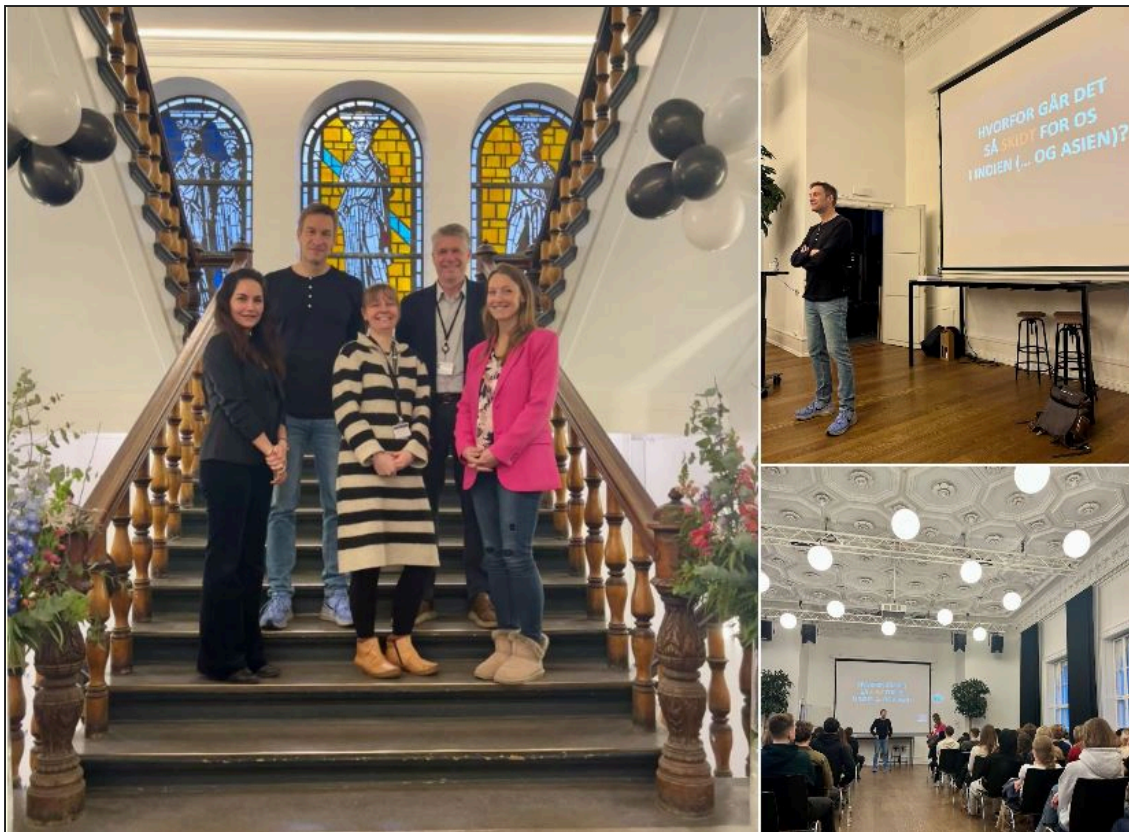
Students from the University of Copenhagen also introduced their podcast [“Er det ik’ Asien?”](#), sharing their efforts to raise awareness about Asia and why they believe it is important.



We extend our gratitude to all participants and our valued partners, including [Copenhagen Business School](#), [Københavns Universitet - University of Copenhagen](#), [Det Internationale Gymnasium Niels Brock](#), [Slotshaven Gymnasium](#) and [Jesper Buchs Iværksætterakademi](#), for making this event a success! And thank you to [Kopan Street](#) for their delicious Hotteok.

If you're interested in learning more about our youth initiatives, feel free to contact Honar Abdollahi ha@asia-house.dk

Connecting Denmark and Asia: Presenting at Niels Brock



In another effort to engage young people with Asia, we recently partnered with [Det Internationale Gymnasium Niels Brock](#) for a special session on cultural understanding and international cooperation.

With around 300 engaged students throughout the day, our colleague Peter Johansen led discussions on cross-cultural collaboration and global perspectives. He also introduced his upcoming book, *Kampen om Indien* (Battle of India), which explores the geopolitical dynamics shaping Asia today.

Partnerships like the one we share with [Det Internationale Gymnasium Niels Brock](#) are central to our mission of preparing future leaders to navigate and collaborate across cultures.

A big thank you goes out to Principal [Peter Bang-Sudergaard](#), Vice Principal [Gry Blom Hempel](#), Head of Education [Joan Jürs](#), and of course to all the amazing students at the institution.

If you or your school are looking to work closer with Asia or learn more about Asia House's youth initiatives, please contact [Honar Abdollahi](#), our Head of Youth Initiatives, at ha@asia-house.dk.

Tết Festivities at Asia House: Welcoming the Year of the Snake

Follow along on our Instagram here!



Asia House recently hosted the Vietnamese Embassy's annual Tết celebration, marking the arrival of the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Snake.

H.E. Ambassador Lương Thanh Nghị and the dedicated embassy team created a vibrant and heartwarming event, bringing together the Vietnamese community in Denmark for a day filled with cultural festivities and connections.

For more highlights, including photos and videos from the event, visit our Instagram account. Don't miss the reel showcasing the festive spirit!

[Follow us on Instagram for more updates and glimpses into life at Asia House.](#)

Zooming in on Asia: Vietnam



Vietnam is one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies, offering a dynamic market for innovation, trade, and investment. With a strong manufacturing base, increasing digitalization, and a young, tech-savvy workforce, the country is becoming a key player in global

supply chains and a strategic partner for Danish businesses.

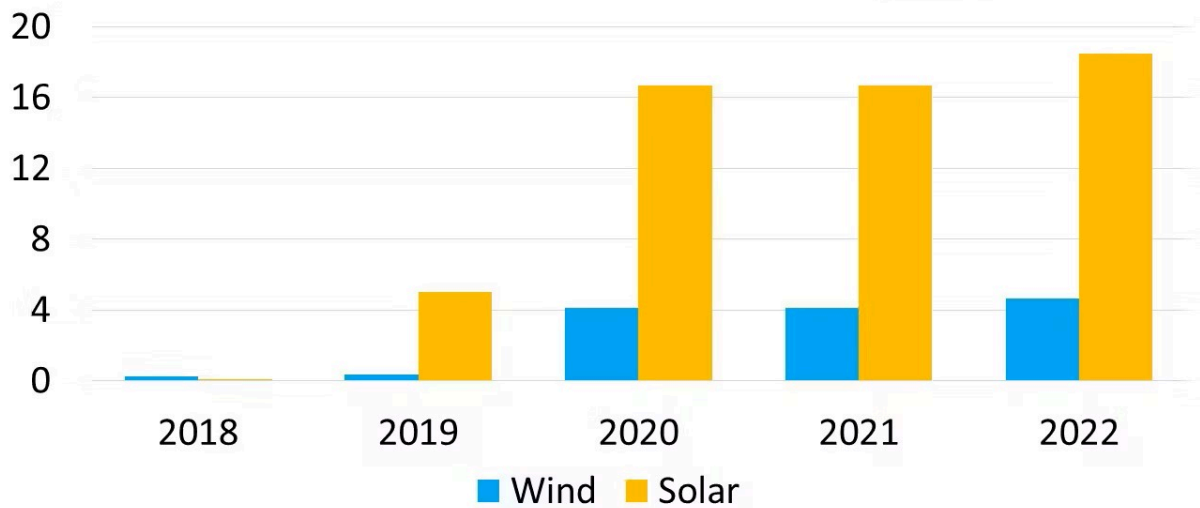
Key Facts About Vietnam

Capital	Hanoi
Population Numbers	98.86 Million
Economic Growth	7% GDP growth (2024)
Key Partnerships with Denmark	Machinery, chemicals, healthcare, and food products

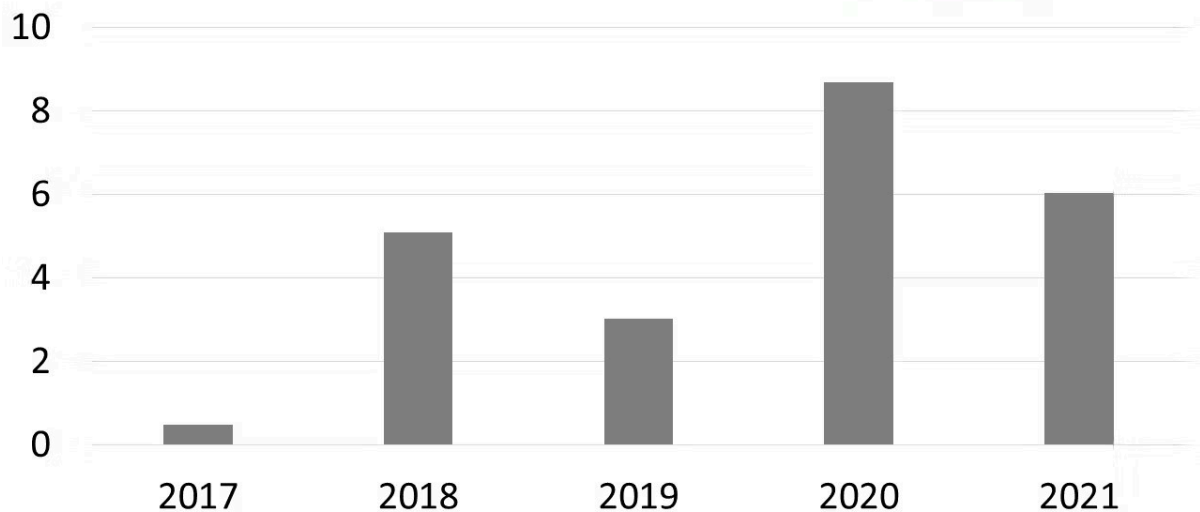
Spotlight: Vietnam’s Green and Digital Transition

Vietnam’s rapid industrialization has led to environmental challenges, including pollution and resource depletion. In response, the country is investing heavily in green technologies, waste management, and sustainable energy solutions. With a plan to invest up to \$1.8 billion in upgrading hospitals and pharmaceutical production, Vietnam also presents strong opportunities for Danish businesses in medical technology and healthcare solutions.

Vietnam solar and wind capacity (GW)



Vietnam clean energy investment (US\$, Bn)



Data: International Renewable Energy Agency, Climatescope.

Did You Know?

- Vietnam is the world's second-largest coffee exporter – locals mostly drink their coffee with condensed milk or even egg yolk!
- Karaoke is a national obsession, and it's not uncommon to hear passionate performances echoing through the streets late at night.
- There are around 45 million motorbikes in Vietnam—so if you visit, be prepared for a two-wheeled adventure.
- The Vietnamese tech sector has been growing at 20–25% annually, offering significant opportunities for Danish IT and digital solution providers.

Learn More

Want to explore opportunities in Vietnam? Dive into one of our past reports [here](#) (Note in Danish).

This Just in - Your Monthly Asia Insight

Did you know Thailand is the first Southeast Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage?



Thailand has become the first Southeast Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage. The new law, which took effect on January 23, 2025, grants same-sex couples the same legal rights as heterosexual couples, including inheritance, healthcare, and adoption.

On the first day, over 1,800 couples registered their marriages, marking a historic moment for LGBTQ+ rights in Thailand. The law is seen as a major step toward equality in a country known for its vibrant LGBTQ+ culture.

Need a venue? Click here to Browse our EventSpace!



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