



Ford Foundation records, Asia Programs, Subject Files of Peter F. Geithner

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Geithner, Peter F.
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Asia Programs, Subject Files of Peter F. Geithner
ID:	FA506
Date [inclusive]:	1991-1996
Physical Description:	2.62 Cubic Feet 2 standard record storage boxes.
Language of the Material:	English .

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Biographical / Historical

Peter Franz Geithner (1932-2016) worked in the field of international philanthropy for more than 40 years. Between 1968 and 1996, he provided leadership for the Ford Foundation's program activities in Asia, becoming Ford's Regional Director of Asia Programs in 1990. After serving at Ford for almost three decades, he retired from the foundation in 1996, but remained active in philanthropic organizations and research institutions for many years after that through advisory positions, consultancy appointments, and memberships on various boards and committees. Geithner was married to Deborah Moore, and together, they had four children: Timothy, Sarah, Jonathan, and David.

Raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Geithner attended Northeast High School. He graduated in 1950 and then pursued his undergraduate education at Dartmouth College. Between 1954 and 1958, he served in the U.S. Navy as a naval aviator, and he earned his master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in 1959. Prior to his work at the Ford Foundation, Geithner had jobs at Columbia Carbon International in New York City between 1959 and 1962 and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Washington D.C. between 1962 and 1968.

Geithner began his career at Ford in 1968 as Assistant/Deputy Director for India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The Geithner family moved to New Delhi, India in order for him to take up the post. He held this position until 1973 when he and his family relocated to New York where he became Deputy Head, Office of Asia and Pacific. In 1976, he returned to Asia in order to serve as Ford's Representative for Southeast Asia at the Bangkok, Thailand Office. This position preceded a move back to New York in 1981 when

he worked as Program Officer in Charge, Developing Countries Program. He became Ford's first representative for China in 1988 and was stationed at the foundation's new Beijing Office. He finished his career at Ford in New York as Regional Director of Asia Programs.

Following his retirement from the Ford Foundation in 1996, Geithner became Advisor to the Asia Center at Harvard University. He also worked as an advisor for the Japan Center for Global Partnership (CGP) and had a succession of consulting appointments with the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (APPC), Ford, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), and the China Medical Board (CMB). In addition, he served on boards and committees for organizations like the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations (NCUSCR), the Institute of Current World Affairs (ICWA), the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), and the Harvard-Yenching Institute (HYI).

Geithner continued to focus on philanthropy and research related to Asia in his post-Ford career. However, he also participated in some philanthropic work related to Africa such as when he assisted the Rockefeller Foundation's Nairobi, Kenya Office.

Geithner's work in philanthropy, international relations, and development intersected with and influenced many important historical events and movements affecting the Asia-Pacific Region such as the strengthening of diplomatic ties between the United States and countries like China and Vietnam, the international response to China following the June Fourth Incident at Tiananmen Square, China's economic development and growing place in world politics, the transfer of Hong Kong back to China, the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, and the impact of terrorism and the War on Terror on philanthropy and international cooperation.

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Scope and Contents

Subject Files, primarily regarding Vietnam

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at RAC in 2011. Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files and officers papers were transferred to, and accessioned by, RAC beginning in 2011. Accessions continue as necessary.

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Subject Files, 1991-1996	box 1
Other Donors -- General, 1992	box 1
Other Donors -- Mellon Foundation, 1993	box 1
Other Donors -- Rockefeller, 1993	box 1
Other Donors -- Sasakawa Peace Foundation, 1993	box 1
Reproductive Health -- General, 1992	box 1
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, 1991-1992	box 1
Save the Children, 1991-1992	box 1
SSRC -- Social Science Research Council, 1992	box 1
SSRC -- Southeast Asian Studies, 1993	box 1
State Planning Committee, 1991	box 1
Television, 1993	box 1
Trustees, 1992	box 1
Visits and Trip Reports, 1993	box 1
Visits and Trip Reports, 1993-1994	box 1
Visits and Trip Reports -- Trustee Visits, 1994	box 1
United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA), 1993	box 1

UCSD World Review, 1991	box 1
UN Mission, 1991	box 1
Upland Management, 1992	box 1
Upland Management/Upland Development -- World Neighbors, 1992-1995	box 1
Upland Management/Upland Development -- University of Cantho, 1991	box 1
Upland Management/Upland Development -- Suan, 1991	box 1
Upland Management/Upland Development -- Ministry of Forestry, 1992	box 1
Upland Management/Upland Development -- FAO, 1992	box 1
Upland Management -- Winrock International (1/3), 1993-1995	box 1
Upland Management -- Winrock International (2/3), 1992-1994	box 1
Upland Management -- Winrock International (3/3), 1992	box 1
US NGO Forums, 1992	box 1
Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA), 1993	box 1
Women's Studies, 1993	box 1
Asia Regional Budget - Grant Proposals, Program Reviews, Grant Lists, Projections, 1991-1994	box 2
Asia Research - Bibliography of Relevant Sources - Notecards, A-Z	box 2
Biennial Program Review, 1995 March-April, 1993-1995	box 2
Biennial Program Review - Next Biennium - Susan Berresford Memoranda, 1994	box 2
Biennial Program Review - Representatives Notes, 1995	box 2
Council on Foreign Affairs - Asia Program, 1995	box 2
Employee Welcome, Farewell and Appraisal Letters, 1991-1995	box 2
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Restricted from access - Personnel	
Payments to Local Staff - Vietnam, 1975-1995	box 2

Scope and Contents

Contains photographs

People Power in the Provinces? NGOs and Politics after the Local Government Code's Promulgation - A Report from the Field by Terrence George, 1994 March	box 2
Recruitment - Asia - Program Officers, Representatives - Position Summaries, Correspondence, 1991-1995	box 2
Social Forestry in Asia Review, 1991-1993	box 2
Scope and Contents	
Includes photograph	
Staff - Alsop, Ruth, 1991-1994	box 2
Staff - Balakrishnan, Radhika, 1994	box 2
Staff - Wollenberg, Eva, 1991-1994	box 2
Vietnam and Asia Regional Files - Ford Foundation Work in Asia, Correspondence regarding Grants and Grant Proposals, 1996	box 2
"Women at Work in Mali - The Case of the Markala Cooperative" by Susan Caughman, 1980 November	box 2