

# Credit Suisse Asia Pacific Foundation FAQs

---

## Mission

**The Credit Suisse Asia Pacific Foundation focuses on improving the employability, aspirations and financial education of disadvantaged young people and the financial inclusion of underprivileged populations across Asia Pacific (APAC) (excluding India). We do this by supporting organizations who operate in a sustainable way through multi-year partnerships involving both financial support, capacity building and employee engagement.**

---

## Background

### Q. Why was the Credit Suisse APAC Foundation created?

A. Launched in February 2020, the Credit Suisse APAC Foundation is the strategic community investment vehicle for Credit Suisse's Corporate Citizenship activities in the APAC region, executing the global Credit Suisse Corporate Citizenship strategy and its vision in the region.

### Q. Why did Credit Suisse only set up the Foundation this year? How have we previously made our philanthropic donations?

A. The Credit Suisse APAC Division was set up in October 2015 to give the division full autonomy to run our business in the region. With the Division fully established, the time was right to also review the structure/model of how we run and support our Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy activities and ensure greater impact and sustainability for our regional giving.

We also seek to be aligned with the giving model adopted in other regions (EMEA, Americas and Switzerland) that each have their own foundations. After a thorough review in the past two years, the proposal to incorporate a Credit Suisse foundation in Asia Pacific was approved by the relevant stakeholders. 2020 marks the launch of the Credit Suisse APAC Foundation.

Prior to this, all grant making in the region was funded through our Corporate Citizenship budget and the APAC Philanthropy Committee governed all grant approvals.

### Q. Why did you decide to establish in Hong Kong?

A. The Foundation is registered in Hong Kong SAR, China. Credit Suisse has a long history in Hong Kong, having celebrated the Hong Kong office turned 50 in October 2019.

Hong Kong is an important regional hub of our operations in North Asia and the first office we set up in Asia (NB: excluding Australia, which was set up in June 2019, a few months before the HK office). In addition to this, HK does not place any restrictions on local foundations funding grants across the region, hence it was chosen as the optimal location to headquarter the foundation.

Grant making covers the Asia Pacific region with the exception of India. In India, Credit Suisse India legal entities already spend 2% of pre-tax income per year on CSR initiatives, in compliance with the India Companies Act (2014).

### Q. How did Credit Suisse support communities in APAC before the launch of the Foundation?

A. Prior to the launch of the Foundation, all grant making was governed by the Credit Suisse APAC Philanthropy Committee. Since its' inception in 1998, the APAC Philanthropy Committee made over 300 grants to charitable organizations across 15 markets in the region, supporting young people and education as well as Financial Inclusion.

Examples in each market can be found in the [factsheet](#).

### Q. Does Credit Suisse have other Foundations?

A. Yes, there are three other Foundations: the [Credit Suisse EMEA Foundation](#), the [Credit Suisse Americas Foundation](#) and the [Credit Suisse Foundation \(including the Jubilee Fund\)](#).

---

## Governance and Funding

### Q. How is the APAC Foundation governed?

A. The APAC Foundation's official bodies are the Board of Trustees, any Grants Committees appointed by the Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees to manage the Foundations' endowment and the Auditors. The Board of Trustees is made up of representatives from APAC senior management, along with international Corporate Citizenship and Foundations representation. Please click [here](#) to see a full list of the trustees. The Board of trustees meets twice per year to approve grants.

**Q. Who manages the day-to-day running of the APAC Foundation?**

A. The Corporate Citizenship and Foundations (CCF) APAC team is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Foundation and the Head of CCF APAC is the Executive Director of the Foundation.

**Q. How is the APAC Foundation funded?**

A. The foundation is funded through a pre-tax income funding model, of which a certain percentage is used to build the Foundation endowment, as well as through an annual donation from Credit Suisse Corporate Citizenship.

**Q. Do you plan to have any external trustees as advisors?**

A. No, we only have internal trustees.

---

**Grants**

**Q. What areas does the APAC Foundation support?**

A. In line with our global vision of a more inclusive future where all people can access the resources and develop the financial, entrepreneurial and other skills to thrive in the economy and society, we focus on three areas:

- **Future Skills:** we support organizations who equip disadvantaged young people with skills and education for a productive future
- **Financial Inclusion:** we support organizations who expand access to high quality, affordable financial products and services
- **Financial Education:** we support organizations who improve the educational attainment and financial education and skills of disadvantaged people

We also contribute to natural disaster relief campaigns through one-off donations and matching of staff donations, and to capacity building of the Future Skills, Financial Inclusion and Financial Education sectors through research, shared learning opportunities, events and tool creation.

**Q. How do you identify charities/organizations that you want to support?**

A. We identify organizations through our partners, industry networks and research.

**Q. Does the Foundation provide disaster relief funding?**

A. Yes, the Foundation contributes to natural disaster relief campaigns through one-off donations and matching of staff donations.

**Q. Which organization types does the APAC Foundation support?**

A. The APAC Foundation supports the following organizations:

- Not for Profit Organization
- Social Enterprise
- UN agency/organization
- University, Training Institute/Centre
- For-profit-company providing a service that helps the Foundation achieving its mission

**Q. Which organization types does the Foundation not support?**

A. The APAC Foundation does not support the following:

- Synagogues, churches, mosques or temples. However, some community service programs sponsored by religious groups may be eligible.
- Schools (including Parents Teacher Association's) where employees are alumni or where family members are in attendance (special consideration may be given to schools where children or family members have special needs)
- Political or fraternal organizations
- Institutions that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, physical ability or sexual orientation

Grantees are required to be generally aligned with Credit Suisse's ESG framework. Specifically, the activities of the grantee should support the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and none of its activities should undermine those goals.

**Q. What costs does the APAC Foundation not support?**

A. The Foundation does not support the following:

- Individual scholarships, study or course expenses
- Music, art or sports education programs
- Stand-alone infrastructure projects
- Fundraising events (including gala dinners)
- Concerts, festivals and similar events
- Leisure activities (e.g. holiday camps, events, etc.)
- Sponsorship events
- Publications, production of materials
- Projects with a solely commercial background
- Loans and deficit guarantees
- Membership fees

**Q. Which organizations does the Foundation currently support?**

A. To learn more about our grantees, visit our [website](#).

**Q. What is the average grant size?**

A. The grant size reflects country needs and poverty level, grantee capacity (to manage large grants), issue(s) being addressed by the grantee, number of beneficiaries and scalability. The average grant size is CHF 250,000.

**Q. How long is the average grant partnership?**

A. Each grant funding a specific program should not last more than 6 years, subject to results of external review after 3 years. A partnership with an organization can last beyond 6 years.

**Q. Does the Foundation support organizations in all countries in Asia Pacific?**

A. Yes, except India where Credit Suisse already has a grants program in compliance with the 2% pre-tax income regulatory spend as mandated by the India Companies Act of 2014. Priority is given to countries where there is a social need that the Foundation can meet through its philanthropy grants and where Credit Suisse has an office.

---

## Miscellaneous

### **Q. Does the Foundation accept unsolicited funding requests?**

A. No. To learn more about philanthropy grant eligibility, parameters and application process, please contact [Corporate Citizenship and Foundations APAC](#).

### **Q. Does the foundation accept donations?**

A. No. The APAC Foundation is the vehicle for Credit Suisse's corporate giving the Asia Pacific region. The Foundation is proud of what our grantees do to improve the lives of people who have the most urgent needs. We encourage people who want to advance these causes to give directly to our grantees.

### **Q. How do I find more information about the foundation?**

A. To learn more about the foundation, visit our [website](#).

### **Q. Does the APAC Foundation offer volunteering opportunities?**

A. No. However, we support our grantees by engaging Credit Suisse employees and collaborating with strategic partners.

### **Q. What's the difference between SymAsia and CS APAC Foundation?**

A. [SymAsia Foundation](#) is an umbrella foundation on Credit Suisse Private Banking platform in APAC to help our clients incorporate sub-foundations to channel their philanthropic donations. SymAsia Foundation Ltd was established in 2010 as a company limited by guarantee with Credit Suisse as the sole subscriber. Via the SymAsia platform, clients may set up their own foundations and direct giving to charitable causes/organizations worldwide. SymAsia disburses funds as directed. SymAsia is managed by a professional Credit Suisse team and governed by an independent Board of Directors. SymAsia has partnered with donors to support and promote their charitable causes.

In contrast, the Credit Suisse APAC Foundation is the vehicle for our corporate giving across the region. The Foundation does not accept any client donations.