



Radio Free Asia

## Fact Sheet

### Overview

Radio Free Asia (RFA) is a private, nonprofit corporation broadcasting and publishing online award-winning news, information, multimedia content, and commentary to listeners in Asian countries where full, accurate, and timely news reports are unavailable. RFA broadcasts in nine languages to mainland China (Mandarin, Cantonese, Tibetan, and Uyghur), Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and North Korea. We also function as a platform for free discussion of forbidden topics, a forum for citizen journalists and a model on which others can shape their own emerging journalistic traditions.

### Important RFA Facts

<b><i>Founded</i></b>	March 12, 1996, under the provisions of the 1994 International Broadcasting Act (P.L. 103-236), as a private non-profit corporation.
<b><i>Mission</i></b>	As outlined in the legislation, RFA's mission is to broadcast news and information to listeners in Asia who are otherwise denied access to full and free information, and to provide a forum for a variety of opinions and voices from within those Asian nations.
<b><i>A Surrogate Broadcaster</i></b>	Acting as a substitute for indigenous free media, RFA concentrates its coverage on events occurring in and/or affecting the countries to which it broadcasts.
<b><i>Nine Language Services</i></b>	<p><b>Mandarin</b> (Launched 9/96) 12 hours of programming per day, 7 days a week; One and one-half additional hours weekly in the Wu (Shanghai) dialect.</p> <p><b>Tibetan</b> (12/96) in three dialects – 10 hours of programming per day*, 7 days a week: Uke (12/96); Kham (5/97), Amdo (5/97) dialects.</p> <p><b>Burmese</b> (Launched 2/97) 4 hours per day**, 7 days a week</p> <p><b>Vietnamese</b> (Launched 2/97) 2 hours per day, 7 days a week</p> <p><b>Korean</b> (Launched 3/97) 5 hours per day to North Korea, 7 days a week</p> <p><b>Laotian</b> (Launched 8/97) 2 hours per day, 7 days a week</p> <p><b>Khmer</b> [Cambodian] (Launched 9/97) 2 hours per day, 7 days a week</p> <p><b>Cantonese</b> (Launched 5/98) 2 hours per day, 7 days a week</p>

**Uyghur** (Launched 12/98) 2 hours per day, 7 days a week

*\*current surge funding extends regular hours*

*\*\*current surge funding extends regular hours*

**Format**

News, analysis, commentary, and cultural programming in the languages of the country of broadcast. RFA does not express editorial opinions.

**Transmission**

A combination of U.S. government-operated transmitters and a variety of short-wave lease facilities.

**RFA on  
the Internet**

RFA maintains an active and growing Web site ([www.rfa.org](http://www.rfa.org)), which provides both streaming audio and text in each of its broadcast languages; multimedia capabilities in the form of interactive maps, timelines and slideshows; and multiple channels on YouTube since 2006 offering our language services' video production and redistributing citizen journalist content. RFA's new media includes two Flickr accounts, numerous blogs and cell phone distribution of three language newscasts. Social media presence comprises six Facebook pages, Twitter feeds in all its languages, one Delicious account and several message boards.

**Headquarters**

2025 M St., NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C., 20036

29 studios; RFA is an all-digital facility, allowing nearly total self-production by the language services.

**Overseas Offices**

Hong Kong, China; Taipei, Taiwan; Bangkok, Thailand; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Seoul, South Korea; Delhi, India.

**Stringer Offices**

Dharamsala, India.

**Funding**

Annual grant from the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

**Awards**

New York Festivals, Gracie Allen Award, Society of Environmental Journalists Award, Hong Kong Journalists Association Human Rights Award, Edward R. Murrow Award.

**Oversight**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, serves as RFA's corporate board of directors, making and supervising its annual grants.

**Staff**

Approximately 270 full-time staff and 200 stringers and consultants.

**May 2013**