

List of Official (National) Asian Languages by Country

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Please note that an asterisk (*) designates the Official (National) Language(s) in bilingual or multilingual countries. This list is exclusively compiled to aid Translation Companies and Globalization Strategists in their business, not to ignite civil wars or bar-room brawls.

<i>Country</i>	<i>National Language(s)</i>
Afghanistan	PASHTU, DARI
Bahrain	ARABIC
Bangla Desh	BANGLA*, ENGLISH
Bhutan	DZONGKHA
Brunei	MALAY*, ENGLISH, CHINESE
Cambodia	KHMER*, FRENCH
China	CHINESE, MANDARIN
Hong Kong	CANTONESE
India	HINDI*, ENGLISH*, BENGALI, GUJARATI, KASHMIRI, MALAYALAM, MARATHI, ORIYA, PUNJABI, TAMIL, TELUGU, URDU, KANNADA, ASSAMESE
Indonesia	INDONESIAN (BAHASA INDONESIA)
Iran	FARSI*, KURDISH, ARABIC
Iraq	ARABIC*, KURDISH
Israel	HEBREW, ARABIC, ENGLISH
Japan	JAPANESE
Jordan	ARABIC*, ENGLISH
Kazakhstan	KAZAKH*, RUSSIAN
Korea	KOREAN
Kuwait	ARABIC*, ENGLISH
Kyrgyzstan	KYRGYZ*, RUSSIAN
Laos	LAOTIAN*, FRENCH, ENGLISH
Lebanon	ARABIC*, FRENCH, ENGLISH
Malaysia	MALAYSIAN (BAHASA MALAYSIA)
Maldives	DHIVEHI
Mongolia	MONGOLIAN
Myanmar	BURMESE
Nepal	NEPALI*, NEWARI, BHUTIA, MAITHALI
Oman	ARABIC*, ENGLISH
Pakistan	URDU*, ENGLISH*, PUNJABI, SINDHI, PASHTU, BALUCHI
Philippines	TAGALOG*, ENGLISH, ILOKANO,

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<i>Country</i>	<i>National Languages</i>
Qatar	ARABIC*, ENGLISH
Saudi Arabia	ARABIC
Singapore	ENGLISH, MANDARIN, MALAY, TAMIL
Sri Lanka	SINHALA, TAMIL, ENGLISH
Syria	ARABIC
Taiwan	MANDARIN
Tajikistan	TAJIK
Thailand	THAI*, ENGLISH, CHINESE
Timor Leste	TETUM*, PORTUGUESE
Turkey	TURKISH
Turkmenistan	TURKMEN*, RUSSIAN, UZBEK
U.A.E.	ARABIC, FARSI
Uzbekistan	UZBEK*, RUSSIAN
Vietnam	VIETNAMESE*, FRENCH, ENGLISH, KHMER, CHINESE
Yemen	ARABIC
Turkey	TURKISH

Besides working as an English <> Indonesian translator and conference interpreter, Johannes Tan is also a cross-cultural analyst and linguistic consultant for several federal agencies and many Fortune 100 companies, translation companies and research centers in the USA, Canada and Indonesia. He has been an English <> Indonesian translator since 1973, is an ATA-active member and resides in Portland, Oregon. This article was originally published in the November/December 1995 issue of the ATA Chronicle. Revised and updated in 2015.