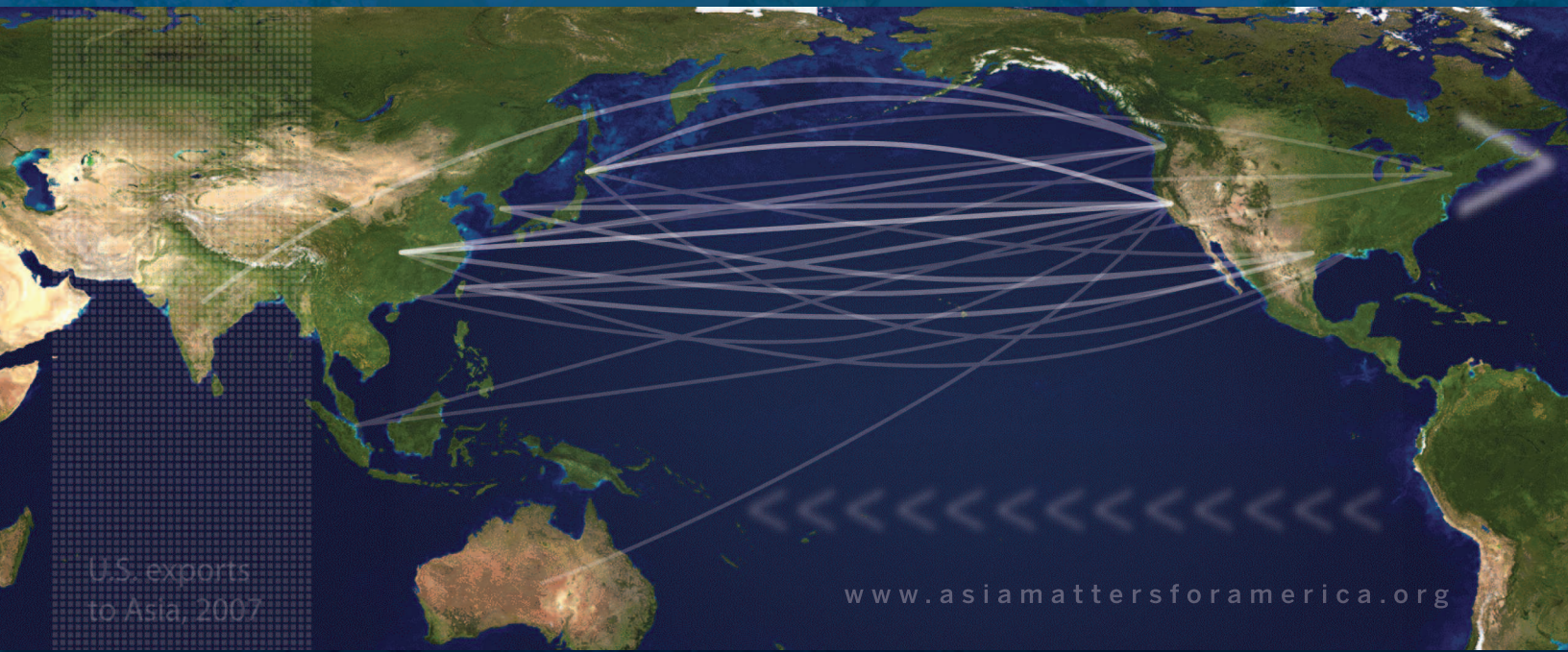


East-West Center in Washington Launched New Website on U.S.-Asia Interactions



EAST-WEST CENTER IN WASHINGTON

Established in 2001 to expand the Center's outreach in the U.S. capital, East-West Center in Washington works to strengthen relations and understanding among the governments and peoples of the Asia Pacific region and the United States through research, publications, and substantive programs. Public forums and congressional study groups in 2008 featured key government officials, scholars, as well as military, business and NGO leaders. Highlights include presentations by Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte; Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Christopher Hill; Assistant Secretary of Defense James Shinn; and Barbara Weisel, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

EWC in Washington Director Satu Limaye welcomes guest speaker Ambassador Jhe Seong-Ho, the Republic of Korea's ambassador-at-large for human rights.



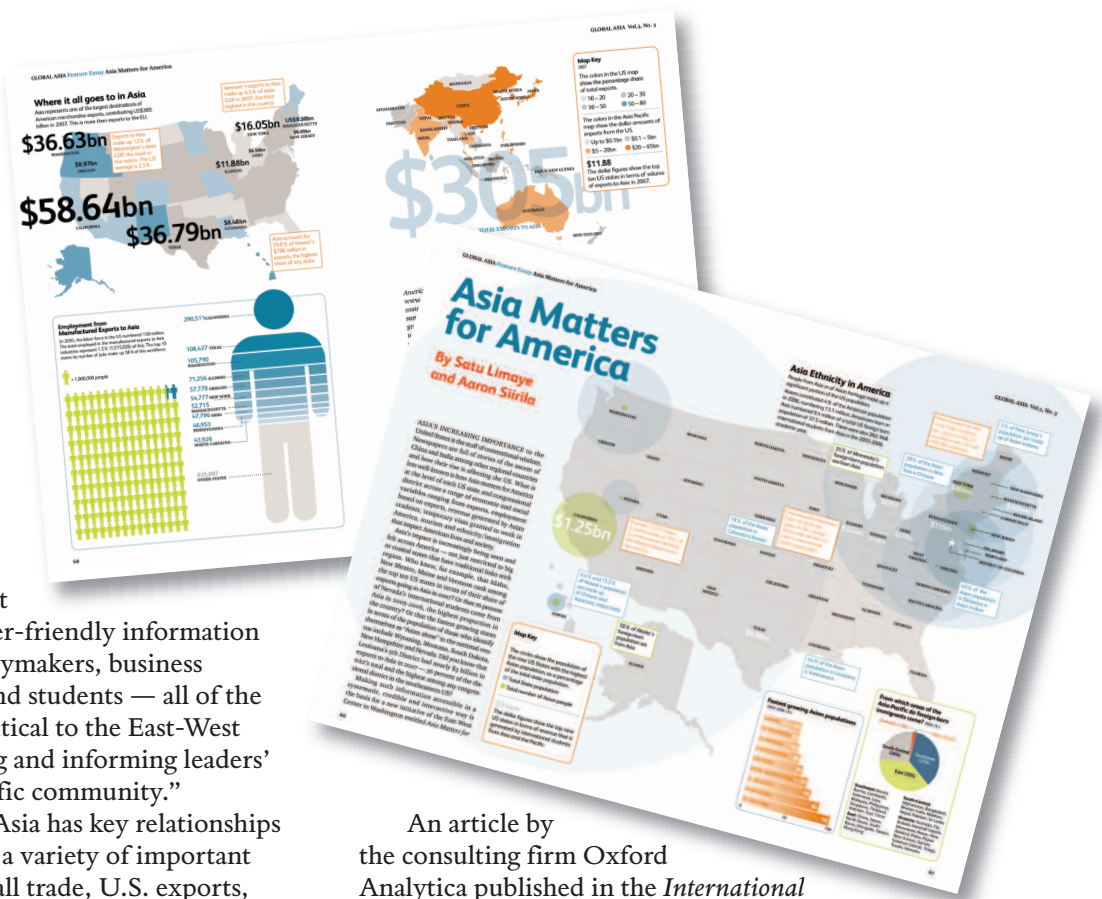
“The *Asia Matters for America* initiative was launched to create a ‘go-to place’ for information, data and analysis of U.S.-Asia interactions,” said Dr. Satu Limaye, director of East-West Center in Washington. “The project is designed to provide user-friendly information for political leaders, policymakers, business people, analysts, media and students — all of the constituencies that are critical to the East-West Center’s goals of ‘forming and informing leaders’ and building an Asia Pacific community.”

It’s well known that Asia has key relationships with the United States in a variety of important measures, including overall trade, U.S. exports, immigrant populations, international students and more. But what has been less widely understood is the importance that these relationships hold for the economies of individual U.S. states and congressional districts.

Now, as part of an on-going project of East-West Center in Washington, this information is readily available on-line in a user-friendly graphic format at AsiaMattersforAmerica.org, an interactive website that provides a hub for viewers to explore the importance of Asia to specific U.S. areas. The *Asia Matters for America* site covers 40 Asian countries and all 50 U.S. states and 435 congressional districts. It displays data on such topics as exports, employment, ethnicity and students from Asia in innovative and understandable ways.

Trade with Asia is increasing faster than with any other region. The economic impact of that trade is not limited to goods and services; rather it includes a wider range of exchanges such as employment based on exports, tourism, and revenue generated by Asian students studying in the United States. However, the politics of trade is often driven by the most visible negative consequences. The *Asia Matters* site provides the data to make a broader, more informed evaluation of the overall benefits and tradeoffs.

At a time when lawmakers from both major parties point to Asia as the source of dwindling jobs in the U.S. manufacturing sector, the data from this new site shows the other side of the equation. It reveals that Asia accounts for 27 percent of total U.S. jobs from exports, more than the European Union and second only to NAFTA.



An article by the consulting firm Oxford Analytica published in the *International Herald Tribune* and *Forbes*, cited the new *Asia Matters* Website as its source, stating that “economic prosperity in many U.S. states and counties depends heavily on trade with Asia — particularly in interior states where foreign trade is not typically seen as a contributor to growth.” Examples of such “hidden beneficiaries” include Montana, which saw the value of its exports to Asia grow by 339 percent from 2001 to 2007, the fastest growth in the country; and in 2007 Idaho, New Mexico, Maine and Vermont all ranked among the top ten U.S. states in terms of their share of exports to Asia. The article points out that “while China is frequently blamed for shuttering manufacturing firms in Ohio, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, they also rank among the top ten states in manufacturing employment by exports to Asia. In Ohio alone, 47,796 manufacturing jobs are directly attributable to trade with Asia.”

On the *Asia Matters* website, users can create interactive maps and charts using selected regional data; instantly access Top 10 lists for each variable; analyze data by per-capita, per-GDP, or as a percentage of total; compare data across neighboring states and congressional districts; explore detailed reports for each state; and much more.

In addition to the website, the initiative includes printed maps, outreach events, conferences and analytical publications. The first phase of the project focuses on trade, student, and societal impacts. Future phases will address foreign direct investment, immigration and more.