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# EAST-WEST CENTER WASHINGTON



■ *Muthiah Alagappa is director of East-West Center Washington.*

20

Established by the East-West Center in 2001, the Washington-based office 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, utilizing the unique resources of the U.S. capitol. East-West Center Washington grew significantly in 2005 due to increased funding for research programs, the addition of research staff, and the expansion of office space. The publications unit continued to progress and new forums were initiated focusing on conflict reduction and the promotion of American understanding and engagement in Asia Pacific affairs—themes central to the Center's work in Washington, D.C. The East-West Center Washington also continued to provide support for EWC programs during the Washington segments of their activities.



*New EWC Washington research fellow, Itty Abraham, presenting his findings on nuclear proliferation issues in South Asia.*

## RESEARCH

### **Dynamics and Management of Internal Conflicts in Asia**

Funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, this multiyear project (2002-2007) examines the domestic, transnational, and international dynamics of internal conflicts in the Asia Pacific and explores strategies and solutions for the peaceful management and eventual settlement of these conflicts. Issues investigated include sovereignty, autonomy, economic development, migration, security operations, and secessionist movements. The second phase of this project (2005-2007) explores the nature, consequences, and management of conflicts in Sri Lanka, Burma, southern Thailand, Nepal, and northeastern India.

### **Nuclear Weapons and Security in Asia**

This six-year, three-phase project (2005-2010), seeks to initiate a comprehensive and systematic study of the nuclear situation in Asia. Organized in three overlapping phases, research in this project will examine:

- nuclear weapons and delivery systems in the national security policies of key states in the Asian security complex;
- the resulting nuclear dynamics and their implications for regional security;
- methods for developing the foundation for ideas, theories, and strategies relevant to the present nuclear age to foster scholarly work and to enable effective policy debates that address problems linked to the acquisition, deployment, and control of nuclear weapons;

- innovative ideas and institutions to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, especially to 'undeterrable' non-state actors.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Policy Studies Series**

East-West Center Washington published seven studies in 2005 providing scholarly analyses of political and strategic issues in and affecting Asia. The studies covered: *Constructing Papuan Nationalism: History, Ethnicity, and Adaptation*, by Richard Chauvel; *The Xinjiang Conflict: Uyghur Identity, Language Policy, and Political Discourse*, by Arienne M. Dwyer; *Meeting the China Challenge: The U.S. in Southeast Asian Regional Security Strategies*, by Evelyn Goh; *Forging Sustainable Peace in Mindanao: The Role of Civil Society*, by Steven Rood; *Islamic Radicalism and Anti-Americanism in Indonesia*, by Merlyna Lim; *Nine Lives?: The Politics of Constitutional Reform in Japan*, by J. Patrick Boyd and Richard J. Samuels; and *The Helsinki Agreement: A More Promising Basis for Peace in Aceh?* by Edward Aspinall.

### **Studies in Asian Security**

This series contains in-depth analysis of domestic, transnational, and international security challenges in Asia. Two books were published by Stanford University: *Rising to the Challenge: China's Grand Strategy and International Security*, by Avery Goldstein; and *Unifying China, Integrating with the World: Securing Chinese Sovereignty in the Reform Era*, by Allen Carlson.

*Public forum panelists speaking on the issue of militancy in Southern Thailand at the conference on State Building Challenges in Asia. These forums were held in conjunction with the EWC Washington's Management of Internal Conflicts in Asia research project.*



## FORUMS & FELLOWSHIPS

### Asian Security Forum

The Asian Security Forum brought together select experts from policy, diplomatic, and academic communities to examine key security issues. These six highly successful forums featured discussions on: “U.S.-ROK Alliance: Challenges and Opportunities” led by former ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Thomas C. Hubbard; “The 1955 Bandung Conference: Reassessing its Relevance for Contemporary Asian and International Order,” led by Professor Amitav Acharya, deputy director, Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, Singapore; “China’s Grand Strategy,” led by Avery Goldstein, professor of political science, University of Pennsylvania; “New Directions in U.S.-Japan Security Relations,” led by John D. Hill, Japan country director, Office of the Secretary of Defense; “Japan’s Historical Election: Assessing the Consequences,” led by Gerald C. Curtis, Burgess Professor of Political Science, Columbia University; and “Updating Recent Events in Asian Security,” led by Victor D. Cha of the National Security Council.

*Scholars and policy experts from the Management of Internal Conflicts in Asia research project discussing the conflict in Sri Lanka at a public forum.*



### Asian International Politics Forum

Established in 2005 to present and discuss advanced research on Asian international politics, the Asian International Politics Forum aims to build a network of local scholars and experts. The inaugural meeting focused on “The New Politics of Antimilitarism in Japan: Explaining Japan’s Recent Development of Surveillance Satellite Capabilities,” led by Professor Andrew Oros of Washington College. The following discussion, led by Professor Scott Kastner of The University of Maryland, addressed the question: “What Can the Relationship Across the Taiwan Strait Tell Us About Theories of Economic Interdependence and War?” George Mason University Professor Ming Wan led the final forum on “Japan’s Strategic Thinking Towards Taiwan.”

### Public Forums

Five public forums, held in conjunction with the second phase of the Management of Internal Conflicts in Asia research project, were designed to engage the public and disseminate the study groups’ findings. These widely attended sessions were part of the first conference on State Building Challenges in Asia held at Georgetown University.

The initial forum, co-sponsored with Johns Hopkins University, focused on Malay-Muslim Militancy in Southern Thailand and featured Foreign Desk Editor Donald Pathan from The Nation Newspaper in Bangkok, Professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak from Chulalongkorn University, and Member of Thai Parliament and former Foreign Affairs Minister Surin Pitsuwan. Subsequent sessions covered conflicts in Burma, Nepal, Northeast India, and Sri Lanka. Featured presenters included Director Harn Yawnghwe of the Euro-Burma Office, former Finance Minister of Nepal Prakash Chandra Lohani, Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika of the Centre for Northeast Studies and Policy Research, Sri Lanka Ambassador Bernard A.B. Goonetilleke, and Member of Sri Lanka Parliament Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam. These forums attracted great interest and support from additional co-sponsors including The Sigur Center for Asian Studies, The Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

### Fellowships

During 2005, East-West Center Washington hosted five scholars-in-residence through the Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the inaugural Northeast Asia fellowships. *For a list of 2005 fellows, see page 48.*



*J. Stapleton Roy, chair of the U.S. Asia Pacific Council; U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona); and Pat Saiki, member of the EWC Board of Governors and former congresswoman, at the USAPC meeting in Washington.*

## PROMOTING AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT IN ASIA PACIFIC AFFAIRS

### Congressional Study Groups

The Congressional Study Groups (CSGs) continued to provide an important venue for the dissemination of new research and discussion on Capitol Hill of critical issues affecting U.S.-Asia Pacific relations. Sessions featured specialists from government and academia, regularly attracting approximately 25 participants from Senate, House, and Committee Offices. In 2005, the following topics were addressed:

- The CSG on Asian Security met five times to discuss:
  - Burma: Conflict at the Center and in the Periphery—Is There a Way Forward?
  - U.S. Policy on Civilian Nuclear Cooperation With India
  - The North Korea Problem: Where Do We Go From Here?
  - Japan in Northeast Asia: A Spoiler or Force for Stability
  - Changing Sino-Japanese Relations: Implications for the United States
- The CSG on Pacific Islands met twice, addressing the topics:
  - Democracy in Tonga and U.S. Interests
  - The Legacy of Nuclear Testing in the Marshall Islands
- The CSG on Asia Pacific Economy met three times in its inaugural year to discuss:
  - Koizumi Victory: Implications for Japan's External Affairs

- China 'Bashing' in 2005: How Trade Sanctions Against the PRC Could Affect the U.S. Economy
- The China Exchange Rate Controversy: A Distraction from Key Policy Challenges

### United States Asia Pacific Council

Formed with the support of the U.S. Department of State, the United States Asia Pacific Council (USAPC) comprises Americans who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the U.S. relationship with Asian and Pacific nations. The Council is a vehicle through which the knowledge and experience of its members inform and enhance U.S. engagement with the region. Individual USAPC members are active in many areas of public and private service including businesses, government, education, research, and journalism. They participate in the Council as private citizens who advise, promote, and facilitate the work of official and private international institutions in the Asia Pacific region. The USAPC conducted several significant events throughout the year:

- USAPC led a reorganization of the Singapore-based Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and provided support for their conference and subsequent report on the Asia Pacific retail food sector held in May in Kunming, China. In September, during PECC's bi-annual General Meeting in Seoul, East-West Center President Charles E. Morrison was elected as PECC's new international Chairman.

- Two international symposiums on "Engaging the United States in an Asia Pacific Community," were hosted in collaboration with the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE). A report will be published in 2006.

- Energy industry representatives and U.S. government officials consulted together in preparation for a series of APEC Energy Working Group meetings on challenges of regulation and long-term planning for the use of liquefied natural gas.

- The annual USAPC conference in Washington addressed "New Challenges in the Trans Pacific Partnership." The Honorable Jim Kolbe, chair of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Finance and Related Matters, spoke on the importance of progress in the WTO for Asia Pacific regional institutions. Former U.S. ambassador and dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Stephen Bosworth, emphasized the possible economic ramifications of East Asia regionalism. Additional speakers included USAPC chairman and former U.S. ambassador, J. Stapleton Roy; director of The Institute for International Economics, Fred Bergsten; former deputy foreign affairs minister of Japan, Hitoshi Tanaka; and Wang Jisi, dean of The School of International Studies at Peking University.

- *Mark Borthwick is the director of the United States Asia Pacific Council.*