

RECORD-BREAKING YEAR REAFFIRMS EWC MISSION MORE VITAL THAN EVER

**By Charles E. Morrison, EWC President and
Roland Lagareta, Chairman, EWC Board of Governors**

2

The year 2005 was a banner year for the East-West Center. After months of intense consultations with a variety of stakeholders, the Board of Governors launched a Strategic Plan, charting the course for significant enhancement of the Center's programs and administration over the next five years. The EWC student programs reached another milestone with the most internationally diverse group of students ever, representing 49 countries. Concurrently, the number of students rose to 432 — the highest number since the early 1970s. The international graduate student conference, which began in 2002 as a small, in-house event, gained recognition and popularity, this year doubling to 117 student presenters from numerous countries and institutions. More than 45 journalists participated in East-West Center exchange programs, and a record number of international dialogue forums were held. Topping off the year, public competed contracts, international support, and private contributions rose to new levels at over \$18 million, supplementing the Center's U.S. Congressional appropriation with the resources to augment existing programs and begin implementation of the goals set forth by the Strategic Plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2005-2010 Strategic Plan provides a framework of broad program priorities around which the East-West Center will continue to develop strong, vibrant activities that best achieve its mission of contributing to a peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia Pacific region through cooperative research, education, and dialogue.

The Strategic Plan emphasizes five broad programmatic goals and an organizational goal. The programmatic goals address the challenges and maximize the opportunities of globalization. First, the East-West Center will continue to improve existing collaborative research activities and expand its focus to include educational policy issues and human rights. Second, through the education and seminars programs, the Center will intensify its efforts to strengthen the human resource base of the Asia Pacific region. Third, the Center supports effective and sustained international cooperation through the establishment of shared norms, processes, and organizational structures that serve as frameworks for analysis, collaboration, and collective action. Fourth, a major emphasis will be placed on conflict reduction with a focus on prevention and mediation. Lastly, the Center will continue to enhance programs that help prepare the United States for effective engagement with the Asia Pacific region.

Aside from these programmatic goals, the Center also has an organizational goal aimed at strengthening itself as an institution.

NEW STAFF

In 2005, the Center welcomed three new members to the management team. Former U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, Raymond Burghardt, joined the Center as director of East-West Seminars, the section of the Center that oversees conference and exchange activities, including programs for journalists. Ambassador Burghardt has served in Manila, Seoul, Shanghai, Beijing, and Taipei. This appointment reflects the elevation of East-West Seminars to a full-fledged division of the East-West Center comparable to the Research and Education programs.



*Roland Lagareta,
chair, EWC Board
of Governors (left),
and Charles E. Morrison,
EWC president.*

Carol Fox joined the Center as director of Strategic Planning and Partnerships. She brings professional experience with the Honolulu Academy of Arts, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Gallery of Art. Her newly established position entails overseeing the Strategic Plan's implementation process and helping to broaden the Center's financial resource base.

Mary Hammond joined the Center as the new dean of education, managing the Center's diverse and expanding student programs. Prior to heading these programs, she worked with Hawai'i Pacific University, the University of Hawai'i, the University of Southern California, and Harvard University.

In addition, the Center's Washington office added two scholars, Itty Abraham and Meredith Weiss. East-West Center Washington now encompasses professional expertise on Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia, as well as region-wide political, security, and economic cooperation issues.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

The Center's enthusiastic alumni are among its greatest assets. In recent years, the alumni association has developed its own strategic plan focused on chapter development and fundraising. Their efforts proved successful, as in 2005, the number of chapters climbed to 45, with the addition of five new chapters. These chapters are becoming increasingly vibrant and innovative in their endeavors to support and extend the mission of the East-West Center.

In November 2005, the New Delhi chapter hosted the historic South Asia Regional Conference. This event attracted 150 alumni from chapters in South Asia and demonstrated the shared determination of EWC alumni to work across national boundaries to further the Center's mission as well as to strengthen professional linkages.

RESPONSIVENESS – THE ASIAN TSUNAMI

The East-West Center strives to provide a rapid response to new needs and issues in U.S.-Asia Pacific relations. Its responsiveness was tested by the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit the region on December 26, 2004, and which continued as a major focus of attention and effort during 2005.

On the first day of business following the tsunami, the East-West Center established a Tsunami Relief Fund and immediately held a fundraising event. With the outpouring of support from the local community as well as from alumni in the region and the U.S. mainland, more than \$500,000 was raised for immediate and long-term recovery efforts. The East-West Center-managed Pacific Disaster Center also rapidly responded by sending staff to the region to provide data management services and geospatial imagery for U.S. and other relief forces.

The Center distributed its funds and began organizing projects related to reconstruction and to preparedness against future disasters based upon staff assessments and help from its alumni and professional contacts in the affected nations.

THE CONTINUING NEED

The East-West Center continues to be engaged in a wide variety of critical issues central to U.S. relations with the nations of Asia and the Pacific. EWC research focuses on areas that directly affect public policy and daily life such as the impact of high oil prices, the threat of avian flu and other emerging infectious diseases, international trade and security issues, China's changing economy, air pollution, and climate variability. As Asia Pacific societies rapidly change, and as the forces of globalization continue to intensify the relationships between the United States and the Asia Pacific region, the East-West Center's mission of promoting international understanding is now more vital than ever.

We think of the East-West Center less as an institution than as a vast network of individuals who are working together to strengthen bonds of friendship, educate future leaders, and address critical issues of common concern. We are grateful to colleagues in every part of this network — the Center's dedicated staff, participants, alumni, and the members of the Board of Governors, the East-West Foundation Board, the Friends of the EWC, and our many partners and supporters throughout the region and the world. It is with their help that the Center continues to contribute to the building of a peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia Pacific region.