

EAST-WEST SEMINARS



■ *Raymond Burghardt is director of East-West Seminars.*

East-West Seminars offer short-term dialogue and educational experiences that address critical issues affecting the region. The programs are designed for government and business leaders, journalists and other professionals, and scholars from the United States and Asia Pacific. These programs facilitate engaging discussion and analysis among colleagues and serve as a catalyst for regional cooperation.

In 2005, East-West Seminars became a separate program within the Center and expanded its activities under the leadership of a new director, Ambassador Raymond Burghardt. The year's highlights included a Senior Policy Seminar that brought together prominent leaders from throughout the region; a new Korea—U.S. Journalists Exchange program; and seminars for Pacific islands managers on disaster risk reduction; in addition to the annual exchange programs for journalists and emerging leaders.

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON CRITICAL ISSUES

6TH SENIOR POLICY SEMINAR

Regional security, Asian priorities, and perceptions of the U.S. role in the region were among the topics discussed when prominent figures from government, the private sector, and strategic think tanks throughout the Asia Pacific region convened at the Center for the 2005 Senior Policy Seminar. Additional session topics covered the second Bush administration's policy agenda; relations among dominant powers; economic issues related to globalization and competition; and domestic political change. Participants included U.S. ambassador to Thailand, Ralph Boyce; former U.S. ambassador to China and Indonesia, Stapleton Roy; former ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Thomas C. Hubbard; Thai Parliament member and former foreign minister, Surin Pitsuwan; recent deputy foreign

minister of Japan, Tanaka Hitoshi; International Crisis Group project director for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Samina Ahmed; president of China Foreign Affairs University, Ambassador Wu Jianmin; chairman and CEO of the Institute for Global Economics, Il SaKong; and Fiji's minister of foreign affairs and external trade, Isikeli Maitaitoga.

ASIA PACIFIC EXECUTIVE FORUM

Asia Pacific Executive Forum (APEF) programs provide industry leaders, policy-makers and other experts with opportunities to discuss key issues that influence business and economic development in the Asia Pacific region. In 2005, a series of business and media outreach sessions on "Your Best Prospects in China: Economic Trends, Legal Challenges, and Energy Opportunities" were held in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio. The EWC collaborated with the Asia Society and local World Affairs Councils to organize these well-attended events.



Attending the EWC Senior Policy Seminar in Honolulu were diplomats, including five former U.S. ambassadors, government officials, economists and academics.



Journalists discussing governance and economic ties between the U.S. and Asia Pacific in the Jefferson Fellowships seminar.

MEDIA PROGRAMS

JEFFERSON FELLOWSHIPS

The 2005 Jefferson Fellowships focused on themes of governance and economic ties between the United States and Asia Pacific countries. In all, 25 journalists participated in the spring and fall programs, supported by a grant from The Freeman Foundation. They represented Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States.

The spring Jefferson Fellows explored “Fresh Mandates for Governance,” analyzing the role and challenges of newly elected governments. All 14 fellows met in Honolulu for a week-long seminar.

The Asia Pacific journalists then traveled to Washington, Minneapolis, Austin, and Dallas, while their American counterparts visited Jakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Beijing.

In the fall, 11 journalists focused on the theme, “Bulls, Bears and Tigers: Rising China and Implications for Regional Economies.” After a week at the Center, they traveled to Shanghai, where they visited Chinese companies that have been part of the city’s phenomenal development; to Chongqing, an inland Chinese city still in the process of opening to outside investment; and to Tokyo to look at the interaction of Japan’s mature economy with other regional economies, and to discuss issues surrounding World War II in the wake of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi’s last visit to Yasukuni Shrine.



Korea-United States Journalists Exchange participants meeting with key leaders in South Korea.

KOREA-UNITED STATES JOURNALISTS EXCHANGE

The East-West Center and Korea Press Foundation co-sponsored the first Korea-U.S. Journalists Exchange. The two-week study tour focused on “Bridging the Gaps in Understanding,” aimed at enhancing the quality and quantity of media reporting on U.S.-Korea issues by educating journalists through travel and dialogue. A \$210,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation will support the exchange over the next three years.

American journalists visited three cities in South Korea while their Korean counterparts traveled to three mainland U.S. cities over a 10-day period. All of the journalists then convened at the Center to share ways to improve media coverage of their countries. Programming partners were East-West Center Washington, the Korea Society in New York City, and the Pacific Century Institute in Los Angeles. The Korea Press Foundation planned all activities in Seoul, Pusan, and Geongju.



(l to r, back row) EWC’s Media Programs Coordinator Susan Kreifels, East-West Seminars Director Raymond Burghardt, and (left 2nd row) EWC’s Seminars Specialist Marilyn Li with the participants in the new Korea-United States Journalists Exchange program.

Hong Kong Journalism Fellows meeting with members of the Organizing Committee of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.



3RD SENIOR JOURNALISTS SEMINAR

Journalists from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore traveled to the U.S. mainland to explore perceptual differences between Asian Islamic communities and the United States. Part of the Center's "Muslim Initiative," the project examined the role of journalists in bridging areas of misunderstanding. The study tour began with meetings in Washington, D.C. focused on U.S. foreign policy toward the Muslim world. American journalists then joined the group for a colloquium on challenges in reporting on U.S.-Muslim relations post 9/11.

The Asian journalists continued to Detroit with a program arranged by the National Conference for Community and Justice. Meetings there centered on interfaith dialogue and Muslim communities in the United States. The program concluded in Seattle with further discussions with senior writers and media experts.

HONG KONG JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIPS

Nine U.S. journalists participated in the 2005 Hong Kong Journalism Fellowships designed to foster a greater understanding of contemporary China and Hong Kong. Participants included journalists from CNN, U.S. News and World Report, Dow Jones Newswires, The Los Angeles Times, and Reuters. The program, co-sponsored with the Better Hong Kong Foundation, commenced with a two-day China Seminar at the Center, followed by a study tour to Beijing, Xian, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

ACROSS THE PACIFIC: A Forum on Journalism in the United States, Korea, and Taiwan

The East-West Center, Freedom Forum, and Society of Professional Journalists co-sponsored a two-day forum in Washington, D.C. for American, Korean, and Taiwan journalists to discuss media and U.S.-

East Asia issues. The event featured a panel that included Muthiah Alagappa, director of EWC Washington; Raymond Burghardt, director of East-West Seminars; and Richard Bush of the Brookings Institution.

- *Susan Kreifels became the media programs coordinator in 2005.*

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR SUSTAINABLE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT: Building Safer and More Sustainable Communities

Executive directors and general managers of electric power utility organizations from 20 Pacific island nations participated in a two-week leadership seminar at the Center that focused on hazard vulnerability and disaster risk reduction strategies. The utility managers discussed best practices with representatives from island utilities in the Caribbean and Hawai'i. A three-day follow-up workshop was held in Guam in conjunction with the 14th Pacific Power Association Annual General Meeting. The seminar and workshop were funded by the New Zealand Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of the Interior, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, Organization of American States, and Hawaiian Electric Company.



Power utility managers exploring best practices for reducing hazard vulnerability in the Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Island Development seminar.

Participants in the 2005 Changing Faces Women's Leadership Program.



“THE GAP BETWEEN THE WEST AND EAST WAS BRIDGED...MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS WERE CLEARED. WE SAW EACH OTHER AS INDIVIDUALS, WITHOUT POLITICS, REGION, OR RELIGION COMING IN BETWEEN.”

2005 New Generation Seminar participant Toufiq Rashid, principal correspondent, *Indian Express*, New Delhi

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES: Implementing the Pacific Framework for Action 2005 – 2015

National disaster managers from 22 Pacific island nations convened in Papua New Guinea for a three-day workshop, held in conjunction with the 12th Pacific Regional Disaster Managers Meeting. The gathering focused on finalizing a ten-year regional plan of action that addressed mainstreaming disaster risk management to improve the capacity of communities to reduce their vulnerability, manage disasters, and significantly enhance the security of civil society.

The managers formally adopted the plan at the 36th Pacific Islands Forum in October. The plan calls for regional organizations, including the East-West Center and the Pacific Disaster Center, to assist island countries in their efforts to develop and implement national action plans.

■ *Meril Dobrin Fujiki is the project manager of the Building the Foundation Program, which encompasses these programs on disaster risk reduction and management.*



New Generation Seminar participants discussing regional health issues.

15TH NEW GENERATION SEMINAR

Emerging leaders from Asia, the Pacific and the United States addressed the theme of “Health Issues in the Asia Pacific Region” at the 15th New Generation Seminar. This two-week program enabled participants to gain a broader perspective on Asia Pacific regional issues facing their generation and to develop a vital support network of colleagues. The 15 participants came from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, the Philippines, the United States, and Vietnam. Participants convened at the Center and then traveled to Bangkok and Hong Kong. East-West Center

Director of Research Nancy Davis Lewis, an expert in the geography of health and women's health issues, facilitated the group's discussion.

■ *Ann Hartman is program specialist for the New Generation Seminar.*

CHANGING FACES WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

“Sustainable Development for Asia, the Pacific, and the United States” was the theme of the 2005 Changing Faces Women's Leadership Program, which brought together 12 women from mid-level leadership positions for dialogue and professional development. The participants, coming from the United States, Burma, China, Hong Kong, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, took part in nine days of discussion sessions, leadership development workshops, panel presentations and site visits around Hawai'i.

■ *Abigail Sines is program specialist for the Changing Faces Women's Leadership Program.*