

Observer

& EWCA Update

Asia and the Global Financial Crisis

East-West Center specialists offered their perspectives on the global financial crisis and the implications for the Asia Pacific region and U.S.-Asia relations in recent public programs and commentaries. Here are excerpts from four of those presentations.

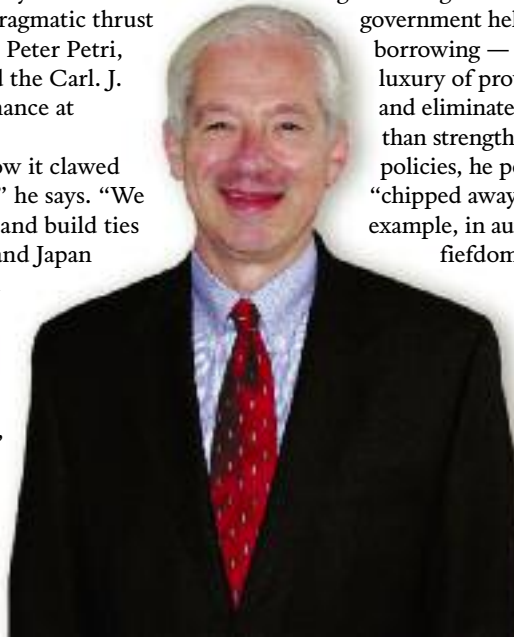
Indonesia, Good Place to Begin New Era of U.S. Economic Diplomacy

Jakarta is a good place for U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to scope out a new, pragmatic thrust for U.S. economic diplomacy, advises Peter Petri, EWC non-resident Senior Fellow and the Carl J. Shapiro Professor of International Finance at Brandeis University.

“We can learn from Indonesia how it clawed its way back from an economic crisis,” he says. “We can engage Southeast Asia more fully and build ties with a region that approaches China and Japan in economic importance. And we can work closely with a huge Muslim country that is becoming a poster child for economic reform.”

Indonesia, a decade after the devastation of the Asian financial crisis, is “a lively democracy with \$50 billion in foreign reserves and an economy that could grow by four to five percent this year” despite today’s global crisis, Petri said.

Peter Petri



Petri suggests several general lessons from Indonesia’s approach to crisis management:

- **Keep your wits about you.** In the midst of the turmoil, Indonesian technocrats focused on basics, he says. They got lending moving, even if it meant government help, controlled budgets and borrowing — noting “they didn’t have the luxury of providing a fiscal stimulus” — and eliminated barriers to flexibility. Rather than strengthening “buy Indonesian” policies, he points out that policy makers “chipped away at protectionism, for example, in autos, which had become a fiefdom” of the Suharto family.

- **Follow a long-term strategy.** Policy makers understood that corruption and bureaucracy were the ultimate obstacles to growth, he says, and embarked on a tough, long-term campaign of reform that continued under successive governments.

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530 Gather at EWC/EWCA International Conference in Bali

For more on 2008 Bali Conference, see pages 9–11.



More than 530 participants from 45 countries gathered at the 2008 EWC/EWCA International Conference in Bali in November, one of the most successful alumni gatherings. In his keynote address, EWC President Charles E. Morrison welcomed the alumni, “leaders in many walks of life, and united in your dedication to building an Asia Pacific community.”

“For me, among the most important measures of our success are your achievements, your participation, and your support,” he said. He referred to the intellectual and policy contributions the 55,000 alumni are making in their own societies and professions, among them Dr. R.K. Pachauri, who last year accepted a

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News in Brief

EWC Awarded \$992,000 for Timor-Leste/ South Pacific Scholarships

The EWC received two grants of \$496,000 from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to support the U.S.- Timor-Leste (USTL) and U.S.- South Pacific (USSP) Scholarship Programs. These programs aim to develop a corps of leaders who will contribute to political, economic and social development in their home countries and strengthen relations with the United States.

Five undergraduate students from Timor-Leste and five students (two undergraduate and three graduate) from the South Pacific nations of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu or Vanuatu will be awarded these competitive merit-based scholarships.

Graduate Students from 27 Nations Attend International Conference

More than 175 graduate students from 63 universities in 27 nations gathered at the East-West Center in Honolulu to present their research at the EWC's 8th annual International Graduate Student Conference. The interdisciplinary gathering, planned and organized by EWC students, is the largest of its kind worldwide.

Presenters at the three-day conference in February were selected from more than 300 graduate students who submitted paper abstracts. Close to 60 of the presenters were from outside the United States, more than 40 from Hawaii, and the remainder from the U.S. Mainland. Co-chairs for the conference were EWC Degree Fellows Neneng Rosmy of Indonesia and Carl Polley of the United States.

For more about the conference, log onto: www.eastwestcenter.org/studentconference



The EWC International Graduate Student Conference is the largest of its kind worldwide.

\$415,952 Grant to Study Societal Change in Japan

The EWC was awarded a grant of \$414,952 from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development to support on-going research in Japan on family change. The multi-year study focuses on structural societal change, individual behavior and attitudes, and the emergence of an altered family institution in Japanese society.



Minja Kim Choe

"The project is designed to advance our understanding of the forces and mechanisms leading to broad-scale change and realignment in family and fertility behavior," said EWC Senior Fellow Minja Kim Choe, "as well as related values, norms, roles and institutions." The research examines changes in attitudes towards non-traditional family behaviors, as well as changes in marital happiness, divorce, family intentions, cohabitation and late marriage.

Experts Broach North Pacific Energy Cooperation

Energy experts from six North Pacific nations met at the EWC in December to discuss national energy security issues and strategies, and the benefits of creating a mechanism for regional cooperation on energy issues.

The nations that surround the North Pacific — China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Canada and the U.S. — include the world's largest energy consumers and importers, as well as two of its largest producers. Between sessions at the International Conference on Energy Security in the North Pacific, jointly organized by the EWC and the Korea Economic Energy Institute, speakers shared their nations' perspectives on North Pacific energy cooperation.

Ji Chul Ryu, executive director of the international energy research center at the Korea Economic Energy Institute, said the North Pacific nations "are all world champions in different aspects of the energy picture. The U.S. is the world champion in consumption and technology. Russia is the number one supplier of natural gas, and number two in oil, behind the Middle East. China is the champion of coal consumption; Japan is the champion of energy conservation; Canada is the champion uranium supplier for nuclear power; and Korea is the champion at constructing power plants."

"If different people are trying to become champion in the same area, then they should compete," he said. "But in a case like this where we are all champions in different areas, we should cooperate."

EWC Senior Fellow Yoon Hyung Kim, co-chair of the conference, said the meeting was "a first step toward promoting a more mature discussion on a cooperative approach to energy in the North Pacific."

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Asia Matters for America

The EWC Washington director discusses a new, interactive website that provides data on the importance of Asia to specific U.S. areas for political leaders, policymakers, business people, analysts, media and students.

Q: *What is the Asia Matters for America initiative and what led you to develop it?*

A: The initiative allows folks to understand Asia's economic, education and societal impacts in the United States by state and by congressional district, as well as from a "whole of U.S. and whole of Asia" perspective. We cover 40 countries of Asia and all 50 U.S. states and 435 congressional districts.

The initiative is designed to meet the EWC's goals of preparing Americans for an era in which Asia will be increasingly important to national life. We wanted to develop a set of products including a website, hard copy publications, and outreach activities to show the myriad ways in which interactions with Asia impact America through commerce, people and education. I felt it was important that the EWC have an initiative that was accessible to the broadest public audience of non-Asia specialists in politics, business and media, including students and others. After all, we are a national institution dedicated to promoting understanding and exchange — and not only for experts.

Q: *On a practical level, how do you hope the information available through Asia Matters for America will be utilized and by whom?*

A: I hope journalists from local and national media will see the impact of Asia on their communities and use the data and analysis in their articles. I hope more political leaders will understand the importance of continued engagement with the Asia Pacific and support that engagement through laws and funding. I hope students will appreciate that Asia is not an abstraction but a daily part of their lives and future and worth learning more about. I hope professional analysts will see that Asia is important not only at the levels of strategy and "high politics" but for everything from students to jobs to the multicultural makeup of our country.

Q: *How did you decide what areas to focus on?*

A: Frankly, we cannot cover all the ways in which the U.S. and Asia interact right away so we chose interactions that are widely considered important: trade, jobs from trade, immigration and ethnic

Asian communities, foreign students across America and the revenues they generate.



Q: *Was there a particular finding that surprised you?*

A: The single biggest surprise was that Asia is important not only to the West Coast states or Hawai'i but, depending on the variable such as trade and depending upon how it is measured (per capita, growth rates, etc.), Asia's impact is important in some way everywhere in the United States.

Q: *You mention that this is the first phase, what do you foresee providing in future phases?*

A: Future phases of the initiative will include: new data (such as foreign direct investment); country-specific initiatives such as *Japan Matters for America* and finally how *America Matters for Asia* at the provincial, prefectural and state level in Asia.

We will also increasingly link the data with written and graphic analysis intended to be considered in the context of policy discussions. For example, we have prepared an analysis of how much Asia and specific Asian countries matter in the context of receiving U.S. temporary worker visas. There are ongoing discussions about whether to contract or expand such visa opportunities and the impact on U.S.-Asia interactions of a decision either way would be useful to understand — even if that is only one among many considerations.

Q: *Have you had any feedback from users and if so what have they found especially valuable about Asia Matters for America?*

A: We have had terrific responses from U.S. and Asian officials, members of Congress, the media and the public. Especially useful to them is the ability to see Asia's impact at both state and congressional levels and the useful interactive website.

Q: *How do I as a user access Asia Matters for America?*

A: The interactive website is www.AsiaMattersforAmerica.org



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Asia and the Global Financial Crisis

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■ **Make politics inclusive.** Indonesia built democracy through elections and by decentralizing economic decisions to local governments. While this created new administrative headaches and made reform more difficult, he believes it made government more legitimate and its decisions more accountable. Local entrepreneurship was encouraged and provinces were motivated to compete with each other in pursuing good policy.

Petri notes that when APEC economies met to review Indonesia's accomplishments in Singapore in mid-February, they expressed wide admiration for what the country had accomplished.

"Not that Indonesia's work is done," he acknowledges. "Its policy makers spoke frankly about the continuing frustrations of stamping out corruption and implementing reform in their vast, unruly economy. But the Indonesian story is good news at a time when good news is in desperately short supply.

"In the long run, an Indonesian-U.S. partnership should be a Clinton priority," he contends. "The U.S. has large economic and political stakes in Asia, and they are not limited to Northeast Asia alone."

He recommends as a starting point, an Economic Partnership Agreement, similar to that which Indonesia recently concluded with Japan. It could enhance mutual openness in trade and investment; provide support for capacity building in Indonesia's difficult reforms; and include a major technical, educational and cultural initiative.

"Secretary Clinton needs early, tangible results to show for her new foreign policy," he adds, and the U.S. needs "to project 'soft' as well as military power firmly and productively — and for now, at bargain prices — especially in Asia.

"For many reasons," Petri says, "Indonesia is the right place to demonstrate how American values and resources can again play a large positive role in the world."

Open, Constant Dialogue Between U.S., China Essential

The China-U.S. economic relationship is arguably the most important in the world, and the Obama administration must nurture relations with China and avoid actions which could make both sides losers, cautions EWC Fellow Christopher A. McNally.

The world's largest and third-largest economies are highly co-dependent and "open and constant dialogue is urgently required to steer this fragile relationship through tough times," says McNally, a China specialist and political economist at the Center.

With a slumping U.S. job market and ongoing credit crisis, American consumers' purchasing power has plunged. In China, this downturn has resulted in



Christopher McNally

"The unraveling of an economic synergy that had been beneficial to both nations is already creating tensions."

thousands of companies closing their doors and millions of Chinese migrant laborers losing their jobs.

The unraveling of an economic synergy that had been beneficial to both nations is already creating tensions, recently illustrated by the war of words between Washington and Beijing over the value of China's currency, the yuan, McNally notes.

"Neither side stands to win, since even without playing political blame games," he says, "there are several possible scenarios that could threaten financial stability."

First, China might not be able to continue its "dizzying" accumulation of U.S. government debt. "Recent indications are that inflows of foreign currency into China are reversing, as fears about China's economic stability rise and more Chinese individuals and firms place their money abroad," he says. "If outflows from China increase, it could affect China's ability to bankroll U.S. trade and budget deficits."

A related scenario concerns China's own economic prospects. McNally points out that as the global financial crisis grows in intensity, China's economy is slowing sharply. As many as 26 million of China's 130 million migrant workers are now unemployed. The Chinese government is using various stimulus packages and other means to protect its domestic economy and avoid social unrest.

"If the Chinese economic downturn continues, it raises the question of whether China might opt to invest some of its almost \$2 trillion in official reserves at home," McNally says. He referred to Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's recent comments, "Whether we will buy more U.S. Treasury bonds, and if so by how much — we should take that decision in accordance with China's own needs."

Finally, the continuing downturn in the U.S. economy already has given rise to talk of protectionist pressures. Threats to impose punitive measures toward China — the largest foreign investor of U.S. treasuries — might prod Beijing to reduce its buying of U.S. securities just as the U.S. government prepares to issue record amounts of debt.

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“An escalating currency row could thus make it more expensive for the U.S. to service its debt and deal a further blow to an already tottering economy,” McNally warns. “As with trade restrictions in the 1930s, currency tensions could lead to a downward spiral.”

Fortunately, the Obama administration is starting to pay attention to the overall dynamics of the multi-faceted China-U.S. economic relationship, he says. During her visit to Beijing in late February, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton tried to strike a conciliatory and cooperative tone, focusing on issues that both Washington and Beijing could agree were important. She also noted at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing that: “By continuing to support American treasury instruments the Chinese are recognizing our inter-connection. We are truly going to rise or fall together.”

“Nonetheless, the potential still exists for a perfect political storm over China within U.S. political circles,” McNally believes, with currency issues and calls for protectionism likely to grow as the global financial crisis continues.

And the economic crisis is likely to enhance China’s international influence in relative terms, he says. “Washington’s ability to make unilateral demands on China will diminish as a result, necessitating tough adjustments in U.S. policy circles. U.S.-China relations are likely to face great challenges in the near future.”

Crisis Heightens Need for International Cooperation

The global financial crisis poses a real potential for serious problems not just in U.S.-China relations but in U.S.-Asia relations, cautioned EWC President Charles E. Morrison. “There is more need now for international cooperation than there has ever been since the post-World War II era,” he said.

In mid-January Morrison discussed the impact of the economic crisis on the region and the outlook for Asia in 2009 at an AsiaPacific Breakfast Briefing sponsored by Bank of Hawaii. Because the challenges for international cooperation are much greater than ever, “it all comes down to leadership at the local level, national level and regional level,” he said. “And that’s what we try to do at the East-West Center, develop the kind of expertise for these economies that will help them understand these issues and take the constructive action needed.”

He noted that in Asia the crisis is seen as manufactured by the United States, through an underlying set of conditions including enormous imbalances, large trade surpluses in Asia and very large deficits in the United States.

“There is more need now for international cooperation than there has ever been since the post-World War II era.”

Charles E. Morrison



At the beginning of the year, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average had decreased by 34%, the Asian stock market declines were 40 to 70%. With a rise in unemployment and manufacturing plants closing in Asia, this was raising questions about the American model, Morrison said.

“The jury is out on how this will undermine the strength and prestige of the United States,” he added. “The question is not really who got us into this mess but how we get out of it and who will lead the way — and people are still turning to the United States” for solutions.

“Like the buildup to the Super Bowl, here we are in the third quarter, behind 24 to nothing,” Morrison said in reference to the new Obama administration. “People are weary of the old quarterback and they bring in the new quarterback — not just a new quarterback but a whole new team. It’s hard for us to predict how this will come out but one thing is for sure, a lot of people in this country know how important it is that we do get this right. A lot of people in the world are counting on the United States to not just have a part in creating this problem but also be a part of the solution.”

Will Asia Pacific Turn to Regional Solutions for Economic Needs?

While the global financial crisis has rocked economies worldwide, economist Marcus Noland calls the recognition internationally that remedies and reforms must involve the G20 as a positive development. He regards this shift to include a broader group of countries not in the G7 or G8 — such as China, India, Indonesia and South Korea — as more reflective of actual economic realities.



Marcus Noland

“Whether they’re able to deliver any real action remains to be seen,” he acknowledged. “But this is a hopeful sign.” Noland discussed the implications of the global financial crisis on the Asia Pacific region in a public presentation in late February.

Noland is a Senior Fellow with the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington D.C. and a non-resident Senior Fellow at the East-West Center. He was a senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisors in the office of the President of the United States.

“The key long-run issue is whether Asia reaches for a regional solution or whether reformed global institutions will be sufficient to satisfy the rest of Asia’s needs,” he said.

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The East-West Center coordinated an international delegation to observe the national congressional and Chuuk state elections in the Federated States of Micronesia in March. An 18-member delegation observed the elections, at the invitation of the FSM national and Chuuk state governments.

Headed by Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega of American Samoa and chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, the Election Observation Mission included representatives from 10 countries, including Aotearoa

(New Zealand), Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Palau, the Philippines, The Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United States.

After the election, the delegation issued a statement congratulating the people of the widely dispersed Pacific island

nation “for an open and spirited electoral process, and for conducting an election that generated high voter interest and was free of violence within the FSM.”

On election day, observers traveled to polling sites in three states: Chuuk, Pohnpei and Yap. Teams observed more than 50 polling stations. Additionally, members of the mission observed the chain of transmission of the ballot boxes to centralized tabulation centers and witnessed the early tabulation process at various sites.

What sets Asia apart from other parts of the world, such as Latin America or Africa where there is similar dissatisfaction with the status quo, is that Asia has the resources to go its own way if it so chooses, Noland said. “Asia has more than \$4 trillion in reserves, more than half of the world’s total. So if the political will is there, Asian governments have the financial resources to set up their own institutions. And so the question is whether they will do that or work through the existing institutions for more broad, realistic forms of governance.”

How this plays out depends on U.S. policy, he believes, “and one of the big issues — and an unknown issue as we move forward in the next couple of years — is how the Obama administration will manage and react to these developments in the G20 with respect to Asian initiatives.”

In answering questions from the audience, Noland said there is a concern Asia might form something like an Asian Monetary Fund with some of its \$4 trillion of reserves. He said the worry is that such a fund might lend to countries on very easy terms. This could lead to a scenario where an Asian government, unable to pay



Olympia Morei, member of the Election Observation Mission from the Republic of Palau, watches as ballots are being prepared for tallying on Weno Island, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia.

The Election Observation Mission was conducted under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Democracy Partnership, a multilateral collaboration of Asia Pacific countries to promote and strengthen democratic processes in the region. The East-West Center coordinated the mission under a grant from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

EWC Coordinates Delegation to Observe Elections in Federated States of Micronesia

Will Asia Pacific Turn to Regional Solutions for Economic Needs?

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“If the political will is there, Asian governments have the financial resources to set up their own institutions.”

back the loan, would turn to an established institution like the International Monetary Fund with what had grown into an even larger financial problem.

While such a scenario is possible, Noland said his impression is that central bankers world over tend to be rather conservative and one of the reasons why an Asian Monetary Fund hasn’t developed as quickly as one might have thought is, it would be basically Southeast Asians asking Northeast Asians for money. Northeast Asians tend to be quite conservative central bankers, he said.

In the discussion of the probability of a regional financial institution, EWC President Charles E. Morrison pointed out that most Asian governments are still very nationalistic. “Some of these countries feel that it’s only in recent history that they’ve recovered sovereignty and the idea of giving up sovereign control is something that is not well appreciated in the region,” he said, “and so regional cooperation goes very slowly.”

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What are the benefits of making a gift to the East-West Center?

- Your gift of any size plays an important role in helping the East-West Center accomplish its vital mission. Every gift is tax deductible as permitted by U.S. law.
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Please take advantage of this opportunity to increase your gift and raise an additional \$20,000 for the East-West Center.

New Members of the EWC Foundation Board of Directors

The following new members were elected to the Foundation's Board of Directors:

- **Mr. Peter S. Ho**, President and Chief Banking Officer of Bank of Hawaii
- **Mr. Benjamin A. Kudo**, Chief Financial Officer and director of the law firm, Imanaka Kudo and Fujimoto
- **Ambassador Charles B. Salmon, Jr.**, Foreign Policy Advisor, Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies

AsiaPacific Breakfast Briefing at Bank of Hawaii

January 13, 2009: EWC President Charles E. Morrison provided a broad perspective on the political impact of recent and upcoming national elections, the economic outlook for the region, potential hotspots, and changes, if any in U.S. policy toward the region during his annual briefing, "**Asia Pacific Outlook 2009**."

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The East-West Center Foundation has made every effort to present an accurate listing of donors. If your name has been omitted or erroneously listed, please call Elizabeth Kuiuoka in the EWC Foundation office at 808-944-7105.

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Arts 'Ohana

January 21, 2009: Master woodcarver Hideta Kitazawa demonstrated noh mask carving for Arts 'Ohana members during the "Mirror & Mirage: Japanese Noh & Kyogen Theatre" exhibition in the EWC Gallery.

Visiting artist Hideta Kitazawa is a second-generation master woodcarver from Tokyo.



EWC Associates Update

A Publication of the East-West Center Associates Office

Winter 2009



**Save the Date:
July 2–5, 2010**

**for EWC/EWCA
50th Anniversary
Celebration in Honolulu**

Join us in Honolulu on July 2–5, 2010 at the EWC/EWCA International 50th Anniversary Conference and “return to the source” to renew old friendships and make new ones. What better setting than Hawai‘i — crossroads of the Pacific and home of the East-West Center — to mark half a century working to promote understanding and cooperation in the Asia Pacific region, including the United States.

The international conference — with the theme: “Leadership and Community Building in the Asia Pacific Region” — will be one of the premier events of the EWC 50th anniversary celebration. We’ll celebrate the accomplishments of the Center’s first five decades and look forward to addressing the needs and challenges of the Asia Pacific community in the years to come.

The conference will consider the position, importance and relevance of national interchange and interaction in the 21st century and the impact of social, cultural, technological and political factors on traditional national frameworks and new international frameworks and institutions. It will draw on the richness of experience gained in 50 years of study and involvement by alumni and staff of the East-West Center.

Mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us!

For more information, visit:
www.EastWestCenter.org/hawaii2010.

530 Gather at EWC/EWCA International Conference in Bali

continued from page 1

Nobel Prize as chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

“Your continuing engagement in our activities confirms the relevance of our institution and its expanding network,” Morrison told the alumni attending the conference. “I can think of no other Asia Pacific organization that compares with the East-West Center in the breadth of reach of its chapter network or in the size of its reunions.

“As alumni, you know better than anyone the value of the East-West Center experience,” he added. “And we are convinced that Asia, the Pacific and the United States will continue to need, in ever growing numbers, individuals with a broad understanding of our region and the world, with sensitivity to each other’s cultures, traditions and interests, and with the professional competencies needed in the 21st century. These competencies are innovation, critical thinking, teamwork, a life-long capacity for self-learning, and, most importantly, the ability to unite diverse interests in common purpose.”

Earlier Morrison spoke of the recent presidential election in the United States and the special tie President Barack Obama has to the Center — his mother was an EWC alumna and stepfather was an EWC grantee from Indonesia. “He is a native son of Hawai‘i, the son of two University of Hawai‘i students, and, if you will, an adopted son of Indonesia,” noted Morrison.

Also addressing the alumni was Puongpun Sananikone, chairman of the EWC Board of Governors and the first alumna to be elected to that position. “The transformative power of the East-West Center experience stays with you and me, and all the people who come into contact with it,” the Laotian-born Sananikone said. “We know that the personal and professional networks, the outlooks and aspirations we gained at the Center are a gift that will remain with us forever. This life-long gift helped us to transcend cultural, ethnic and political divides. And for many of us, it has transformed the



See Bali
Conference
Photos on
Pages
10–11

way we think, the way we live our lives — and, most importantly, the way we view the world.”

Sananikone concluded with reference to the theme of the conference, “united in our diversity and inspired by our shared East-West Center experience, and lasting friendships, we have much to offer the world in its continuing endeavor to build ‘Unity in Diversity.’”

“In August, 159 new students arrived from 36 countries. This year we have the highest total number of participants in 34 years, over 500. Supporting degree students is one of the major goals of the EWCA Strategic Plan. We meet this goal by providing Alumni scholarships to incoming students, arranging for mentoring of students by professionals in the Honolulu community, providing travel grants so students can participate in professional conferences and carry out research in the field, and by arranging for orientation meetings with local chapters before the new participants come to the Center.”

LARRY FOSTER, PRESIDENT OF EWCA



Chapter leaders from 31 chapters met at a two-day workshop prior to the conference.

EWC/EWCA International Conference in Bali

Special thanks to the following organizations whose generous support helped make this conference a success.



Ford Foundation
Ford Foundation



Ministry of
Culture and Tourism



Bali World Travel



Indonesian International
Education Foundation



Freeport Indonesia

 **The Jakarta Post**
The Jakarta Post



The Opening Ceremony featured the Governor of Bali, the Indonesian Coordinating Minister, the United States Ambassador, and EWC President Charles E. Morrison.



Plenary panel on philanthropy.



Alumni from several countries discussed climate change.



Members of the Board of Governors Roland Lagareta and Pat Saiki welcomed guests including University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw (right).



Keynote speaker Coordinating Minister Aburizal Bakrie greeted by EWC President Charles E. Morrison, Board Chair Puongpun Sananikone and Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle.



Lots of special souvenirs were available.



Recognizing the EWCA Outstanding Volunteers (L to R) Board Chair Sananikone, Joseph L. Overton, Claire Koch Langham Richmond, EWC President Morrison, U Maung Maung and EWCA President Larry Foster.



Always lots of good food and fellowship at our conferences.



Our colleagues from Indonesia enjoyed the conference.



Distinguished Alumni Honored at Bali Conference

At the Bali International Conference, the East-West Center honored several alumni for their outstanding personal accomplishments and service toward the Center's mission of helping to promote better relations and understanding among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and the United States.

Three individuals received the Center's biennial **Distinguished Alumni Award**:

Riley K. Lee, recognized internationally as an outstanding performing artist of the traditional *shakuhachi* Japanese flute. As the most widely known and influential *shakuhachi* performer of non-Japanese ancestry, Lee is highly respected by Japanese musicians, music critics, scholars and audiences. With more than 50 commercially released recordings, he has performed all over the world.



Kuldeep Mathur, served as rector of India's Jawaharlal Nehru University and director of the Indian Institute of Public Administration. Mathur took the lead in expanding the frontiers of public administration to encompass broader issues of governance, including persuading Jawaharlal Nehru University to establish a multi-disciplinary Centre for the Study of Law and Governance. A widely respected senior member of the social science community in India, he served as president of the EWC alumni chapter in New Delhi for many years.



Dennis C. Zvinakis (posthumous). Zvinakis gave tirelessly throughout his career as an Agency for International Development (AID) foreign service officer and development professional in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Toward the end of his career, he was the AID representative to ASEAN and the Asia Environmental Partnership. After retirement, he accepted his greatest challenge by establishing a USAID Mission in Vietnam in 2004. His efforts resulted in the development of a historical program in Vietnam, with an emphasis on agricultural development, public health and environmental projects.



EWCA Salutes Chapters and Volunteers

In addition, the Center honored a number of individuals and alumni chapters for their outstanding volunteerism and service to the Center and its mission.

The **EWCA Makana Award** was presented to longtime Indonesia Chapter and EWCA Executive Board leader **Didin Sastrapradja**. The Makana Award (*makana* means "gift" in the Hawaiian language) is given in recognition of life-long dedication to the EWC mission and service to its alumni. For more than 30 years, Sastrapradja has provided leadership and advice to the Center's alumni association, benefiting the association substantially through his gentle and persuasive approach, which is respected by all.

Recipients of the **Outstanding Volunteer Award** were **U Maung Maung** (Burma), **Joseph L. Overton** (United States), **Claire Koch Langham Richmond** (San Diego, U.S.A.) and **A. Seshan** (Mumbai, India).

Outstanding Chapter Awards were given to EWC alumni chapters in **Bangkok, Thailand** and **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

The **Bangkok Chapter** has been active for many years, tracing back to the EWC/EWCA International Conference in Bangkok in 1991 which attracted over 500 participants. Each year the chapter holds an annual Aloha Night which brings together hundreds of alumni and friends. Most

recently, the Thai alumni raised more than \$185,000 for the Royal Sala Thai Scholarship Fund for Thai students, in conjunction with the rebuilding of the Royal Sala Thai. The scholarship campaign serves as a model for other chapters to follow.

The **Dhaka Chapter** organizes regular meetings and celebrates the EWC's anniversary on May 14 each year. It has successfully publicized the Center, accepted responsibility to serve as the EWC Program Representative in Bangladesh, and organized community service projects for the poor to alleviate disaster situations from floods and cyclones.

EWC Dean of Education Mary Hammond, with **2008 EWCA Alumni Scholar award winners**. (L to R) John Andrew Brannon (USA), Clare Suet Ching Chan (Malaysia), Xiaofeng Kang (China), Dolores Tongco (Philippines), Dean Hammond, Chalita Bundhuwong (Thailand) and Sovatha Ann (Cambodia). Not in picture: Qiong Jia (China), David Nguyen (USA), Mayco Axel Santaella (USA) and Huei-Wen Tsai (Taiwan).





Rose Nakamura and the Project Dana staff in front of the cottage that houses their offices.

Rose Nakamura Wins National Award as 'Compassionate Caregiver'

From 1963 to 1989, Rose Nakamura touched the lives of hundreds of EWC grantees as a former Education Program Officer and Participant Services Officer for Student Affairs and Open Grants.

When she retired, Rose launched a new career, co-founding Project Dana, a non-profit organization with a mission of helping senior citizens with their daily needs. For her work leading this grass-roots program in Mo'ili'ili — a neighborhood just a stone's throw from the East-West Center — the advocacy group American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) selected Rose for the "Compassionate Caregiver" Award, one of only 10 individuals from across the United States who received the honor. Rose accepted the award last December in Washington, D.C.

Ever modest, Rose told the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, "I was speechless when the call came, I thought — me? I was dumb-founded."

The award recognizes "doers" who inspire others to action through their passion and perseverance.

She found herself in prestigious company, including actor Glenn Close for her work in the mental health field, and such past recipients as Caroline Kennedy and broadcaster Tom Brokaw.

Now 80 years old, Rose volunteers as full-time administrator for Project Dana, which helps about 1,000 *kupuna* (senior citizens) annually. Assisting her is a staff of

"I'm a people person. I always enjoy working with people, whether they're international students or an older population."

part-timers who are paid and dozens of volunteers who provide companionship, run errands and assist with transportation for the homebound.

"I'm a people person," says Rose. "I always enjoy working with people, whether they're international students or an older population. The international students were often homesick and struggling to feel at home in Hawai'i, in a different way the elderly often need a friend."

Rose gives credit to friend and co-founder Shimeji Kanazawa for the idea of Project Dana (*dana* is the Sanskrit word for "selfless giving") at their Buddhist temple, Mo'ili'ili Hongwanji Mission. The two women noticed that members of the hongwanji would often stop attending services when they had to give up driving. They discovered that the needs of the elderly extended beyond finding transportation to church, and thought, "why don't we offer some assistance in their homes."

Over the years, Project Dana grew into an inter-faith program providing services to the elderly and disabled throughout the community through a coalition of 33 churches.

"Project Dana is about extending compassion and care, without any reward for recognition," Rose explained in an article in the AARP magazine, which has a circulation of more than 23 million. "Caregiving is everybody's business."

At the AARP banquet in December, Rose spoke of "how the *dana* spirit of selfless giving and the *ohana* spirit of sharing and giving" play a vital role in her project.

Update Your Contact Information and Be a Winner!

As we approach our 50th Anniversary in 2010, we're making a special effort to update our alumni records. **If you update your contact information before the deadline of June 30, 2009, you will be a winner** by becoming an "active" member of our ever-expanding international network of professionals.

Sign up now and:

- Receive our EWCA Update newsletter.
- Receive our monthly E-Newsletter.
- Be able to network with thousands of EWC alumni throughout the region.

And if you send in your Update Form before June 30, you'll be eligible for a special drawing for free registration (a \$250 value) for our Golden Anniversary Alumni Conference in July 2010 and other gifts, such as EWC pens, pins and other EWC mementos.

Don't wait! Send in your update form now. You can access the update form on our website at: <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/alumni/contact-information> OR contact us at alumni@eastwestcenter.org and we'll send you the form to fill out.



AROUND the Globe



(L to R) At a program in February, P.M. Belliappa, president of the Chennai Chapter; Fred Kaplan, Consul Public Affairs, American Consulate General, Chennai; Ishtiaq Ahmed, visiting professor, Institute of Asian Studies, Singapore; and P. Subramaniam, vice president of the Chennai Chapter.

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh - Dhaka

Six chapter members attended the Bali conference, including Chapter Leader Ekramul Ahsan who accepted the Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award on behalf of the Bangladesh chapter. The chapter will continue its community service activities, which include assisting flood and cyclone victims in rural areas and vocational training in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations. Plans are to hold a national alumni conference this year and to participate in the EWCA Climate Change study.

India - Chennai

Chapter President P.M. Belliappa, Vice President P. Subramaniam and Secretary-Treasurer S. Rajamani paid a courtesy call on the new U.S. consul general in Chennai, Andrew Simkin, in September. At the meeting, they discussed the activities of the Chennai chapter.

In January, the chapter and the Association of British Scholars in Chennai organized a talk by a UNESCO expert on the challenges of addressing school drop-out rates across the Asia Pacific region. The event was well-attended and reported in *The Hindu*. In February, the chapter hosted another talk at the University of Madras with a visiting research fellow from National University in Singapore.

India - Mumbai

The chapter has committed to participate in the Climate Change Project, being coordinated by Brisbane Chapter Leader Jeremy Webb. As part of this effort, Sarosh Bana participated in an international conference on climate change organized by Dr. R.K. Pachauri in New Delhi in February. Pachauri is an EWC alumnus and chair of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The chapter is looking at specific initiatives being pursued by various Indian companies on low carbon production processes. It plans to produce a report on these efforts of corporate responsibility and, if possible, a short film.

Pakistan – Hyderabad

The Hyderabad chapter has worked with village leaders, teachers and a local trust to organize monthly health camps at a village about 50 kms from Hyderabad. It recruited a group of doctors, who have volunteered to participate in this community service project. High school students also have volunteered to assist with the camp and the patients.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Laos

The Laos chapter is compiling a list of alumni and contact information. To increase Lao representation at EWC-sponsored activities, the chapter has established a working relationship with the Lao Ministry of Education. The chapter is looking for ways to increase the number of Lao participants at three levels: as participants in socio-economic development sector conferences and workshops, degree students at the UH and EWC, and EWC scholars-in-residence in specialized fields of application. This includes fundraising so students can attend classes to improve English language competency and pursue studies at the EWC.

Malaysia

The chapter is involved in an environmental education project for Malaysian secondary schools that was launched in February. The project includes a tree-planting project in the schools and exposing students to basic environmental concepts. Last October, chapter members provided assistance and prizes for a community service program organized by education students at the Universiti Malaya. More than 100 children at orphanages near the university participated in a "Treasure Hunt," conducted in English.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan - Tokyo

Several chapter members, all 1969 and '70 grantees, gathered in March to discuss ongoing efforts to update contact information for Japanese alumni who were at the EWC from 1969 to 1971. Since the end of January, nearly 50 Japanese alumni now living in Japan have been identified, including their email addresses. And contact information about some 20 alumni living outside Japan has been updated. 1969-71 grantees or participants are asked to contact Kazuyuki Matsumoto at matka@jcom.home.ne.jp or to update contact information on the EWCA Online Directory.

The Tokyo chapter plans to hold a general meeting on April 18, at which a new chapter leader will be nominated. The Kansai chapter also plans a general meeting. Both chapters are updating their membership directories and discussing future activities.

UNITED STATES

Arizona

The chapter has established an EWC Alumni Scholars' Database for Arizona, which invites alumni to Paradise Valley Community College to speak on various academic topics related to Asia, as part of the college's student development initiative. To date 11 EWC alumni have registered for the database. The intent of these presentations is to inspire students to include Asia in their academic studies.

Tim Wong, the chapter's founding leader, is organizing a study tour to China for interested EWC alumni. Any proceeds from this program will be allocated for student scholarships at the EWC. On March 28, the chapter held its first social gathering for all Arizona alumni. The event also served as a planning session to establish several ad hoc groups to further the organization in key logistical areas: chapter by-laws, non-profit status, event planning, etc. And to determine the number of alumni who plan to participate in the 2010 EWC/EWCA conference.

Northern California

A newspaper article in the *Contra Costa Times* described the mission of the East-West Center and the EWC/ EWCA impact on Chapter Leader Barbara Boret Stumph as a teacher and on public school children through art demonstrations and lessons. Stumph taught children about Chinese language, art and culture over two decades.

She also reports that a presentation on the EWCA and its purpose was made to a local educational sorority and to the American Association of University Women. The chapter continues to co-sponsor events with the Asia Foundation, Asia Society and other organizations in the Bay Area, including a January panel discussion on "The Future of Democracy in Northeast Asia," with distinguished scholars and diplomats.



(L to R): Michio Kanai, Noriatsu Matsui, Suzanne Speakman Akiyama, Sumiko Watanabe Horiguchi, Takamasa Akiyama and Hisatake Jimbo.



Members of the Southern California Chapter gathered for a Holiday Party.

PACIFIC

Australia - Brisbane

Since the Bali Conference the chapter has been in touch with all who participated in the Climate Change panels and others who expressed interest but did not attend, in an effort to generate high-quality presentations at the 2010 anniversary conference in Honolulu. Chapter President Jeremy Webb hopes to attract high-profile personalities in the environmental field as possible speakers. He also is working toward presenting a detailed picture of climate change as it is affecting the Asia Pacific region, reflecting a multi-chapter approach to a regional issue.

As part of a sister-relationship with the Kathmandu chapter, two Nepalese students have been selected to have their education paid for by the Brisbane chapter.

Papua New Guinea

The PNG Chapter was revived in April 2008, with Solomon Kantha as chapter leader. Kantha appointed five U.S. South Pacific Scholarship Program (USSP) alumni to the Chapter Committee. Together they will plan workshops, seminars, public lectures, fundraising and outreach activities. The chapter leader also has made contact with the PNG-USA alumni and the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby in an effort to reach out to former EWC participants. The chapter hosted a barbecue last July for chapter members and their families. Also invited was Lucas Manduru, a new USSP scholarship recipient, so members could informally provide orientation about the EWC, UH and the U.S.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Asian Studies Development Program

David Jones reports that the ASDP chapter conducted a wide-range of activities in the last quarter, including raising more than \$2,200 for disaster relief for Sichuan earthquake victims and Myanmar cyclone victims. The chapter also published an issue of the peer-reviewed ASDP journal, *East-West Connections: Review of Asian Studies*, and maintained the ASDP listserv, ASDP-L. Through its relationship with the ASDP Association of Regional Centers, the chapter developed, delivered and coordinated the 15th Asian Studies Development Program National Conference 2009 in Philadelphia, with more than 100 attendees. Under the direction of Editor Julien Farland, the ASDP alumni newsletter was published. And Joseph Overton, former ASDP chapter president, received a Distinguished Volunteer Award at the Bali conference.

To celebrate their lifelong love of books, **Verner and Gillian Bickley** have established a new annual literary prize. **The Proverse Prize** is offered for an unpublished full-length work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry, submitted in English. (Translations are welcome. Work may be previously edited, acknowledging the editor.) First prize is HKD10,000 and the winning submission will be offered a publishing contract by Proverse Hong Kong. Deadline is May 30, 2009. For more information: http://www.geo.cities.com/proversehk/proverse_prize.

In Memorium

Joelle Shaw Alsdorff, a member of the EWC staff in the 1960s, died in September.

Park Choon Ho, who retired in 2001 as Distinguished Professor of International Law at the Graduate School of International Studies at Korea University, died in South Korea in November. Judge Park was a research associate at Harvard Law School (1972–1978), and then the EWC (1978–1982). In 1982, he returned to Korea where he continued to distinguish himself as a professor of international law at Korea University and Seinan Gakuin University in Japan. In 1998, his alma mater, University of Edinburgh, awarded him an honorary Doctor of Law degree.



Lasantha Wickrematunge of Sri Lanka

One of Sri Lanka's leading journalists, Lasantha Wickrematunge (Jefferson Fellow 1995) was killed by two gunmen as he drove to work in

Colombo, the nation's capital in January. Trained as a lawyer, Wickrematunge and his brother started *The Sunday Leader*, an independent newspaper which exposed corruption among the powerful, including the ruling party in Sri Lanka. Over the past 14 years, the 50-year-old editor established a reputation as an outspoken critic of the Sri Lankan government. His newspaper's motto is "Unbowed and unafraid," a reflection of his editorial philosophy.

He also reported for *Time* magazine, which wrote that Wickrematunge's death "has galvanized the growing anger among the press and other civil society groups in Sri Lanka about restrictions on free expression in the country and intimidation of the media." Upon his death, *The Economist* published an editorial recognizing "a brave campaigning journalist" who was murdered because of his criticism that "the foundations of the democratic free society" the Sri Lankan government should be fighting for were in jeopardy.

Wickrematunge had suffered harassment and intimidation, been beaten before and threatened for his reporting. He had predicted his own death in an editorial that read, "I hope my assassination will be seen not as a defeat of freedom but an inspiration for those who survive to step up their efforts."



EAST-WEST CENTER
FORMING AND INFORMING LEADERS

Help Build an EWC Community

More than 55,000 men and women have been EWC participants in its 49-year history, and many have joined the 47 established EWCA chapters in 20 countries.

The East-West Center Association, the Center's official alumni organization, works with alumni to strengthen the EWC network. We hope that you'll keep in touch with us. Send us your current contact information so you can participate in our international network. Send it to: alumni@EastWestCenter.org.

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Alumni Happenings

Charles Backus (Junior Year Program '67) was recently named the first recipient of a newly endowed \$2 million chair as the Edward R. Campbell '39 Director at Texas A&M University Press. Previously, Backus — who earned a Ph.D. in history from Princeton and is author of *The Nan-chao Kingdom and Tang China's Southwestern Frontier* (Cambridge University Press, 1981) — was press director at Syracuse and Vanderbilt universities.

S. Kaushik (Pop '07) recently joined USAID/India as Senior Research and Evaluation Advisor in the Office of Population, Health and Nutrition. His work will involve the monitoring and evaluation activities of the large portfolio of health programs funded by USAID in India. His supervisor is Sheena Chhabra, who was also a participant in an EWC Population workshop in 1999.

Joseph F. Kess (ISI '62-'65, OEA '03), was awarded the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon for contributing to the promotion of academic exchange between Japan and Canada and the study of Japanese language. Kess is Professor Emeritus at the University of Victoria and Emeritus Chair in Japan and Asia Pacific Relations, Center for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria.

Lucas Serrao Lopes, (BA '04), was recently named chief of staff for the Secretary of State for Culture, Timor-Leste (East Timor).

Ashok Mahotra ('63-'65) visited the four Indo-International Schools, funded by the Ninash Foundation, a non-profit he started to promote literacy among the poorest of the poor children in India's remote villages. A highlight of the trip in January was the pilgrimage to the first Indo-International School in Dundlod. Started in 1996, by participants of the SUNY Oneonta "Learn and Serve" Study Abroad Program with 50 underprivileged children, it now has grown to 500 students from nursery to high school.



Shakeel Makarani, EWC Ph.D. student from Gujarat, India, with EWC alumnus Yassen Y. Herry, Executive Director, Chuuk State Election Office, Federated States of Micronesia compare their EWC ID cards. After all these years, Yassen still carries his EWC card in his wallet. Shakeel was in Chuuk as a member of the Election Observation Mission coordinated by the East-West Center.



EAST-WEST CENTER

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