

Jefferson Fellowships

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR SPRING 2009 JEFFERSON FELLOWSHIPS

The deadline for submitting applications is Wednesday, January 21, 2009

The Jefferson Fellowships provide 12–14 print and broadcast journalists from the United States, Asia and the Pacific Islands with the unique opportunity to share perspectives and build a professional network through a one week dialogue seminar at the East-West Center in Honolulu followed by two-weeks of study tour travel in the Asia Pacific-U.S. region.

The Spring 2009 Jefferson Fellowships program:

The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis in Asia

May 9-31, 2009

Honolulu, Tokyo, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong

The financial crisis that began in the United States has quickly spread around the world, highlighting the interdependence of the global financial and economic system. The deepening recession in the United States and Western Europe is creating ripple effects in many export-dependent Asian economies that could be more severe than those affecting the United States. China, especially the southern province of Guangdong, already has seen steep declines in export demand, while a home-made property bubble is deflating as well. Massive job losses for migrant factory workers have resulted in social upheaval and an uncertain future for millions. The world will be watching as China's leaders navigate a sharp economic slowdown and with it, the potential for widespread social unrest. Japan, the world's second largest economy, has officially declared recession. While it is still struggling with its home-grown financial crisis of the 1990s, its export-dependent economy has been hard-hit due to slowing demand abroad and an appreciating currency. Japan's economic challenges are compounded by political uncertainty as the country waits for elections to be called.

This Jefferson Fellowships program will provide U.S. and Asia Pacific journalists an opportunity to explore the economic, social and political impacts of the financial crisis in the United States and Asia. Fellows will share perspectives from their own countries in a weeklong dialogue at the East-West Center in Honolulu, followed by two-weeks of study tour travel to see how the crisis is playing out in Japan and China, Asia's two largest economies, as well as key creditors to the U.S. and economic engines for Asia.

In Tokyo, Fellows will examine how Japan will manage an increasingly dismal economic outlook at home while also playing a role in a cooperative global effort. A journey through China's export corridor from Guangzhou to Shenzhen will provide journalists with a firsthand perspective on what may be fundamental economic and social shifts connected to this financial crisis. Finally, in Hong Kong, Fellows will discuss the impact of the financial crisis on Asian markets and the long-term implications for the increasingly interdependent political and economic relationships among Japan, China, the United States and the rest of Asia. A looming question is how Japan, China and the U.S. will address the huge global

imbalances—savings deficits and overconsumption in the U.S., and savings and export surpluses in much of Asia—that had a role in creating this crisis. A rapid and disjointed unwinding of these complex relationships could have catastrophic consequences.

Who May Apply

The Jefferson Fellowships are designed for working print, broadcast and on-line journalists from the U.S. or Asia Pacific with a minimum of five years of professional experience, though some flexibility is allowed in assessing the applications. The program is open to reporters and editors; “gatekeepers” who help determine the content of coverage by their news organizations; editorial writers, commentators and columnists; and broadcast producers.

Study sessions, discussions and briefings are conducted in English; fluency in that language is required.

Program Purpose and Content

The Jefferson Fellowships program was launched in 1967 to enhance public understanding through the news media of cultures, issues and trends in the Asia Pacific region, broadly defined as Asia, the Pacific Islands and the United States. The long-range goal is to help news organizations build staff expertise about regional concerns and trends, so that their readers, viewers and listeners may be better informed.

The Fellowships provide the participating journalists with a wide range of perspectives through dialogue with professional colleagues, participation in seminars and meetings with business and government decision-makers, scholars and students, social activists, cultural analysts and others. These contacts, and a network of close to 500 former Jefferson Fellows, provide participants with resources on whom to call when they plan, assign, edit and produce news coverage involving or affecting the region.

The first week of the program consists of dialogue among the Fellows, including a short seminar led by each Fellow; lecture discussions with East-West Center researchers and other experts; and field visits. This will be followed by a study tour to cities in Asia and/or the United States.

Professional Exchange

One essential element of this professional experience is the journalist-to-journalist exchange. Central to this is a presentation that each Fellow will give to his or her fellow participants. Each Fellow is required to prepare and submit four weeks before arriving at the Center a short paper (1,000–1,500 words). The paper should address a significant issue in the participant’s country that is relevant to the theme of the program and discuss how the country – at the government, private sector and/or socio-cultural level – is responding to the issue. The Jefferson Fellowships coordinator will work with invited Fellows to develop a series of presentations relevant to the theme.

Each Fellow also will make an oral presentation (approximately 15 minutes) based on the previously submitted paper and participate in discussion of his or her topic.

The purpose of the presentations is to tap the education and experience of participating journalists in ways that will be professionally useful to fellow participants as they study, assess, and report in their media on the themes of the program and the Asia Pacific region.

East-West Center, University of Hawai'i and Other Resources

East-West Center fellows and research staff, University of Hawai'i faculty and other experts will lead seminars addressing historical, cultural, social, media, political, security, economic and other issues in an Asia Pacific regional context. During their time in Hawai'i, the Fellows are encouraged to avail themselves individually of Asia Pacific resources in the community, including staff and library facilities at the Center and the University of Hawai'i. (The Center and the University are separate institutions but cooperate on a range of projects.)

Study Tour

Field study for the Spring 2009 program will consist of group travel for 16 days. All the Fellows will travel together to Tokyo, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. The East-West Center will coordinate the travel segment of the program, working with on-the-ground partners in Japan and China, as well as its network of alumni, including former Jefferson Fellows, who often volunteer to host, guide and advise traveling Fellows, and to arrange appointments and interviews.

Funding

The Center, through a grant from the Freeman Foundation, provides the Fellows with economy class air transportation from their home cities to Honolulu, to the study tour destinations and from the final city of the study tour back to their home countries. The Center also provides lodging at the East-West Center guesthouse in Honolulu and at moderately priced hotels during the study tour. A modest per diem to cover living costs (food and incidentals) not met by the program is provided in Honolulu and during the study tour. **Fellows will be responsible for all applicable visa fees, as well as any other visa-related expenses.**

Employer commitment to the program is important. News organizations are asked to help their employees participate by providing part of the cost whenever possible. An "Employer's Statement of Support" is a required part of the application. While financial assistance from the employer is not required, employers are encouraged to provide support to their Jefferson Fellows as a demonstration of their commitment to the program. Other kinds of employer support, such as hosting visiting Jefferson Fellows, are welcomed.

Fellows may arrive in Honolulu prior to the May 9 program start date and remain in Asia after the May 31 close of the program (subject to appropriate visa status). However, costs for housing, food and incidentals will be at each Fellow's own expense for additional days beyond the official program dates.

The Jefferson Fellowships are supported by a grant from The Freeman Foundation, of Stowe, Vermont. The grant funds all travel costs, lodging, per diem and other program expenses. About half of the East-West Center's general funding comes from a U.S. government appropriation and the rest from private foundations and agencies, media organizations, individuals, corporations and governments in the Asia Pacific region. Official agencies, private companies, research organizations, East-West Center alumni and volunteers contribute to the program on a regular basis.

How to Apply

Please access the Jefferson Fellowships application form and complete instructions on how to apply at our website: <http://www.EastWestCenter.org/jefferson>.

In addition to the two page application form, applicants must also include the following:

- A letter outlining your issues of interest, a brief description of your news organization, and what you expect to accomplish if an award is granted. Please suggest topics you propose to address in your paper and presentation at the East-West Center (**maximum** three pages, double-spaced, please).
- Names, addresses, phone/fax numbers and e-mail of three people who may be contacted by the Center as references. Two of these references should be people outside your news organization.
- A letter of recommendation on official letterhead from your supervisor describing your suitability for the Fellowship and the benefit the organization hopes to derive from your participation in the program.
- The “Employer’s Statement of Support” form completed by your employer.

NOTE: Samples of your work are not required. If you wish to include samples, we prefer web links to articles (when possible) rather than hard copies.

Please send applications by **Wednesday, January 21** to:

**Jefferson Fellowships
East-West Seminars
East-West Center
1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96848-1601, U.S.A.
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EAST - WEST CENTER

The East-West Center contributes to a peaceful, prosperous and just Asia Pacific community by serving as a vigorous hub for cooperative research, education and dialogue on critical issues of common concern to the Asia Pacific region and the United States. The Center serves as a national and regional resource for information and analysis on Asia and the Pacific. It provides a meeting ground where people with a wide range of perspectives exchange views on topics of regional concern. Since the Center’s founding in 1960, close to 50,000 people have participated in its programs. Many of these participants now occupy key positions in government, business, journalism and education in the region.

The East-West Center is a public, non-profit national and regional research and education institution with an international board of governors. About half of the Center’s funding comes from a U.S. government appropriation and the rest from private foundations and agencies, media organizations, individuals, corporations, and a number of Asian and Pacific governments.