



# 21st New Generation Seminar

**The Future of Jobs: Innovation and Industrial Policy for Economic Growth**

**October 2-16, 2011**

**Honolulu ♦ Boston/Lowell ♦ Washington, DC**

## **Background Information**

Each year, the East-West Center (EWC) identifies participants from the younger, rising generation of leaders from the United States and Asia Pacific for this two-week intensive educational and dialogue program developed around a thematic focus. The purpose is to help create a better-informed younger generation of leaders who have a greater understanding of regional issues and challenges. The New Generation Seminar (NGS) also provides these younger leaders with a network of counterparts throughout Asia Pacific and the United States upon which to draw as they rise in their leadership positions. Since its launch in 1988, a total of 302 participants from 26 Asia Pacific countries and the United States have participated in 20 NGS programs.

The Freeman Foundation has funded the New Generation Seminar program for the past fifteen years, since 1996. Through this funding, the East-West Center covers participant air and ground travel expenses, meals, lodging and other per diem expenses related to the two-week period of the program.

The East-West Center seeks nominations for participants from a variety of organizations and individuals: U.S. Embassy public affairs or cultural affairs offices in Asia Pacific; the Japan Center for International Exchange in Tokyo; the American Council for Young Political Leaders, and the New Generation Seminar alumni. Self-applications are also accepted through our website at: [www.eastwestcenter.org/ngs](http://www.eastwestcenter.org/ngs).

Nominations/applications are accepted from June-July, with selections made by August 10. The New Generation Seminar is a *competitive* process; a selection committee at the East-West Center makes the final selection of participants.

## **Participant Criteria**

The 21<sup>st</sup> New Generation Seminar will involve 10-12 participants aged mid-20's to late 30's, 7-8 from Asia and 3-4 from the United States. The program seeks to engage "communicators" and "leaders," those individuals who are in a position to shape and influence the views of others. An important selection consideration is demonstrated leadership in current and/or past positions, and the potential for future leadership. Most often these individuals are leading through active engagement in the political processes of their countries. Past participants have included members of national, state or provincial government assemblies or ministries, young mayors or governors, city council members, up and coming members of political parties, leaders of political party youth wings, political advisors and other elected officials. The NGS also welcomes leaders from civil society organizations, media, business and law.

**<< The New Generation Seminar is funded by the Freeman Foundation >>**

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*The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.*

The NGS is not geared toward academics, researchers or individuals who are specialists in the program theme; rather it seeks to engage leaders with broad-based policy knowledge, responsibility and influence who can benefit from learning about a range of Asia Pacific issues in addition to the program theme.

Efforts are made to balance gender representation and diversity of ethnic, religious, regional representation and political party entities from each country. Preference is given to Asians who have had little opportunity for travel to the U.S. or other parts of Asia Pacific; likewise we generally select Americans with little or no Asia Pacific experience. Thus individuals from foreign ministries or international relations “think-tanks” are not strong candidates. Fluency in English is required.

## **Program Agenda**

The New Generation Seminar program provides an avenue for dialogue and interaction among the participants through formal meetings as well as informal after-hour activities. The first week of the New Generation Seminar is held at the East-West Center in Honolulu and consists of briefings by EWC research staff on key issues in the region such as security, international relations, economics, energy resources, population, health and environment, as well as sessions directly related to the seminar theme. The Honolulu program also includes relevant field visits, a half island Oahu tour and an opportunity for each of the participants to share with the group a topic of interest/importance to him or her. Each participant is asked to give a short presentation on a topic from his or her country as a means for participants to learn from one another about the region and to stimulate discussion.

The second week of the program involves field travel to either the Asia Pacific region or the United States mainland to enhance participants’ knowledge of a specific theme. Past themes have included: environmental issues, responses to 9/11, challenges of religious diversity, security and leadership, health issues, disaster risk reduction, education challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the politics of globalization, and Asia Pacific security and the U.S. role.

## **21<sup>st</sup> NGS: The Future of Jobs: Innovation and Industrial Policy for Economic Growth**

The Obama administration has listed education, innovation and infrastructure as the keys to America's future global competitiveness. Many Asian countries have also targeted innovation as a key direction—Singapore is investing heavily in education and incentives to lure innovation to its shores and “indigenous innovation” has become a central focus of China's industrial policy. Countries across the Asia Pacific region are recognizing the need to create and own ideas as well as to manufacture products. But what is the right formula for stimulating innovation and converting new ideas into economic growth? The U.S. still leads the world in innovative capacity, but as it emerges from its worst recession in decades, the U.S. has fears of challenges to its competitive advantage, especially from a rising Asia. The U.S. also is focused on maintaining and creating jobs, both in the short and long term. Policymakers are reassessing the country’s industrial policy, exploring the need to maintain manufacturing capacity and to find the right balance of government and market roles to spur innovation and to translate that into economic growth and high quality jobs.

This program will provide Asia Pacific and U.S. leaders and policymakers an opportunity to explore innovation for economic growth and the role of policy in facilitating this process through study tour travel to Lowell, Massachusetts, the birthplace of the industrial revolution and a city that has successfully reinvented itself to adapt to the global economy; Boston, home of many of America’s top universities which are leading the way as catalysts of industrial upgrading through innovation; and to Washington, DC to examine the U.S. strategy for and the role of policymakers in maintaining U.S. competitiveness in innovation, upgrading American industry and creating new jobs.