



Message from the President and the Board of Governors Chairman

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



*EWC President
Charles E. Morrison*



*EWC Board of Governors
Chairman Roland Lagareta*

“The East-West Center, our partners, and participants, have been a dynamic part of the successes of the region over the past four decades. Together, we have played a pioneering role in many important aspects of U.S. relations with the countries of region.”

The Asia Pacific region is undergoing change and development at a rate that is totally unprecedented in world history. As a whole, compared with the early years of the East-West Center, in the 1960s and 1970s, the people of this region are healthier, more prosperous, better fed and educated, and enjoy more civil rights and personal freedoms than ever before. They are also on average much older, especially in Northeast Asia, becoming increasingly urbanized, and more vulnerable to both manmade and natural disasters. This rapid change and growth holds great opportunities for building a more peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia Pacific region, but they also create many new challenges. How these challenges are handled has enormous implications for the countries in the region, and the entire world, and is the major focus of the East-West Center.

The United States' relationship with the nations of the region has also changed markedly over the years. For the East-West Center this is symbolized by our positive involvement with two countries, China and Vietnam, which were considered enemies of the U.S. at the time of our founding. The Center now receives more students and has more institutional partnerships with China than with any other Asian country. In 2006, the largest EWC alumni conference yet held outside Hawai'i took place in Hanoi. For better, or worse, Asia today has an impact on American life that could not have been imagined 40 years ago, including trade far exceeding that with any other region, the largest foreign holdings of U.S. Treasury bills, to competition for oil and other resources, and the potential for pandemic diseases and faster rates of global warming.

The East-West Center, our partners, and participants, have been a dynamic part of the



EWC/EWCA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BUILDING AN ASIA PACIFIC COMMUNITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



EWC Board of Governors present at the 2006 Conference in Hanoi: (L to R) EWCA Representative Lawrence Foster, Albert Chang, Tai-Young Lee, Il SaKong, Eddie Flores, Jr., Jean E. Rolles, Tun Daim Zainuddin, Miriam Hellreich, Patricia Saiki, Puongpun Sananikone, Roland Lagareta, and David McClain.

successes of the region over the past four decades. Together, we have played a pioneering role in many important aspects of U.S. relations with the countries of region. The enormous challenges and opportunities ahead only add to the importance of the East-West Center's mission in the 21st century.

The Center's 2005-2010 Strategic Plan is designed specifically to meet these challenges. Our cooperative research activities are focused on key areas in the overall U.S. relationship with the region — trade, health, the implications of demographic change, the environment, and energy. The Center is continuing to develop new cooperative research programs in the areas of humanitarian law and education policy.

Our educational program is designed to build vital networks of young women and men with leadership skills and a broad knowledge of the region as whole. Over the past year, 481 students from 52 countries participated in educational programs at the East-West Center.

Our institution-building efforts focus on building long-term partnerships, recognizing that ad hoc activities will not be sufficient. In the area of conflict reduction, the East-West Center addresses the region's most critical problems — nuclear proliferation and the internal conflicts so often associated with terrorism. In the South Pacific, we work with island leaders as well as grassroots organizations to address the fundamental causes of conflict and strengthen good and effective governance.

With our 50th anniversary only three years away, we believe that among the Center's most important tasks is the strengthening of the capacity of the United States to engage effectively and constructively with an Asia Pacific region, a region ever more important to our future and that of the entire world. We are especially proud of our enhanced work with Congressional staffs and other Washington audiences, journalists, and teachers in over 400 colleges and university throughout the United States as well as K-12 teachers.

Among the many achievements of the past year, one of the main highlights was the aforementioned alumni conference in Hanoi. Over 550 alumni from around the region, students, Board of Governors members, and staff participants came together in the Vietnamese capital. At such an event it is possible to see the most important and tangible results of the East-West Center experience — a corps of dedicated professionals who hold a lifelong commitment to the Center's mission, and who strive both collectively and individually to see it to fruition.

While building such a community is a long-term task, we are witness to the ingredients for success: a mission more vital than ever, a clear sense of direction, a vigorous and united Board of Governors and staff, and a highly committed East-West Center network of alumni and partnerships in the United States and throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Charles Morrison Roland Lagareta