Established in 2001 to expand the Center’s outreach in the U.S. capital, East-West Center in Washington works to strengthen relations and understanding among the governments and peoples of the Asia Pacific region and the United States through research, publications, and substantive programs. Public forums and congressional study groups in 2008 featured key government officials, scholars, as well as military, business and NGO leaders. Highlights include presentations by Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte; Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Christopher Hill; Assistant Secretary of Defense James Shinn; and Barbara Weisel, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

EWC in Washington Director Satu Limaye welcomes guest speaker Ambassador Jhe Seong-Ho, the Republic of Korea’s ambassador-at-large for human rights.
An article by the consulting firm Oxford Analytica published in the *International Herald Tribune* and *Forbes*, cited the new Asia Matters Website as its source, stating that “economic prosperity in many U.S. states and counties depends heavily on trade with Asia — particularly in interior states where foreign trade is not typically seen as a contributor to growth.” Examples of such “hidden beneficiaries” include Montana, which saw the value of its exports to Asia grow by 339 percent from 2001 to 2007, the fastest growth in the country; and in 2007 Idaho, New Mexico, Maine and Vermont all ranked among the top ten U.S. states in terms of their share of exports to Asia. The article points out that “while China is frequently blamed for shuttering manufacturing firms in Ohio, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, they also rank among the top ten states in manufacturing employment by exports to Asia. In Ohio alone, 47,796 manufacturing jobs are directly attributable to trade with Asia.”

On the Asia Matters website, users can create interactive maps and charts using selected regional data; instantly access Top 10 lists for each variable; analyze data by per-capita, per-GDP, or as a percentage of total; compare data across neighboring states and congressional districts; explore detailed reports for each state; and much more.

In addition to the website, the initiative includes printed maps, outreach events, conferences and analytical publications. The first phase of the project focuses on trade, student, and societal impacts. Future phases will address foreign direct investment, immigration and more.