

# Research Program

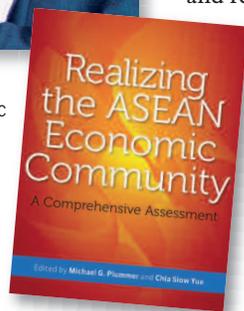
The Center's Research Program addresses issues of policy significance to the U.S. and the Asia Pacific region. The Program is organized into four broad areas: 1) Politics, Governance and Security; 2) Economics; 3) Environmental Change, Vulnerability, and Governance; and 4) Population and Health.



Research team members Melissa Finucane (left) and Jefferson Fox (right) visit live poultry market in Vietnam as part of their study on "Anthropogenic Environmental Change and Avian Influenza in Vietnam."



The USAID-sponsored report, "Realizing the ASEAN Economic Community: A Comprehensive Assessment," co-edited by Senior Fellow Michael Plummer, was presented to President Barack Obama by ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan at the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders Meeting in Singapore.



## Governance and Human Rights

Under the auspices of the Asia Pacific Governance and Democracy Initiative (AGDI), Senior Fellow Shabbir Cheema organized the "Stakeholders Conference on Cross-Border Governance in Asia and the Pacific" held in Bangkok. The meeting examined cross-border governance issues related to migration and refugees, trade and poverty reduction, water management, human trafficking and human rights, and emerging infectious disease surveillance and response. Cheema also launched a project on electoral and parliamentary processes in Pakistan with support from the U.N. Democracy Fund.

The Asian International Justice Initiative (AIJI) monitored the first trial of the Extraordinary Chamber in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and engaged in a series of outreach and legacy initiatives (*see p.8*).



Senior Fellow Shabbir Cheema (left) at the Cross-Border Governance in Asia and the Pacific conference.

## The Economy

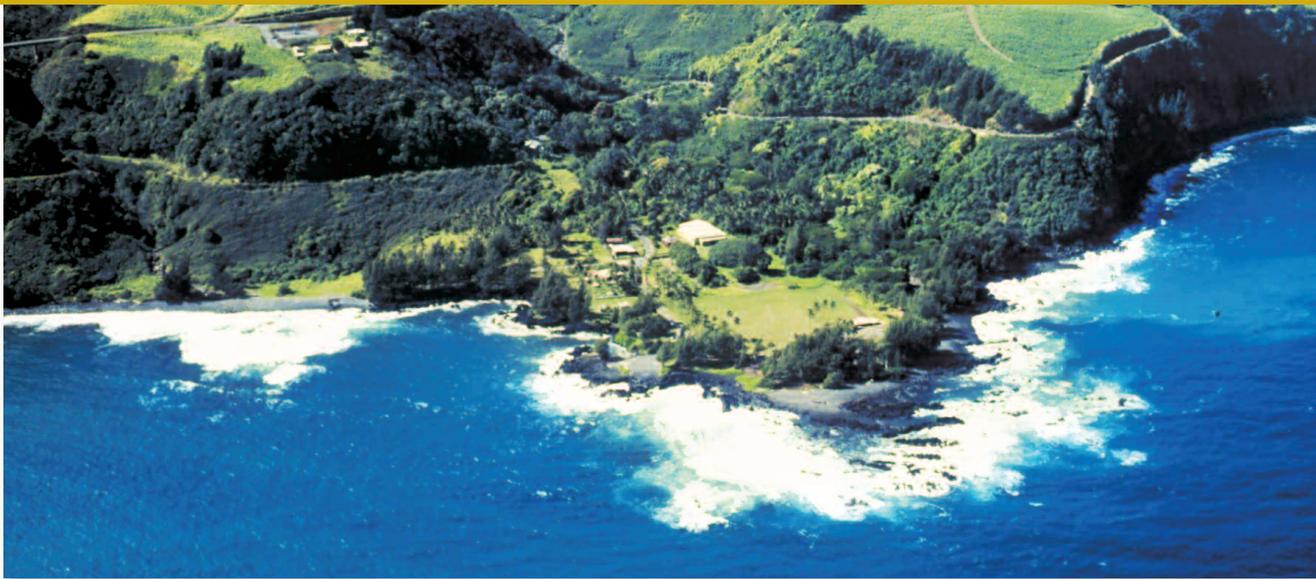
The joint East-West Center/National Bureau of Asian Research conference in Beijing on "Standards and Innovation Policy in the Global Knowledge Economy — Core Issues for China and the U.S.," organized by Senior Fellow Dieter Ernst, attracted key government officials, corporate executives and academics from the U.S., China, and Europe including participation from Microsoft, Intel, and Motorola.

The *Realizing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)* study, lead by Non-Resident Senior Fellow Michael Plummer, assessed the feasibility and impact of the creation a single market and production base in Southeast Asia. The findings project a 5.3% increase in regional welfare and that all ASEAN states will gain from the AEC initiative.

The National Transfer Account project, co-directed by Senior Fellow Andrew Mason, examines saving and sharing among generations in more than twenty countries in Asia, North and South America, Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. As part of the long-term study, the research team is analyzing data from previous financial crises (e.g., "the lost generation" in Japan, the Asian financial crisis, and the Swedish banking crisis), to get hints of what the current financial crisis might mean in terms of public and private transfers of wealth.

Information about EWC publications is available at: [EastWestCenter.org/pubs](http://EastWestCenter.org/pubs)





Sea level rise will exacerbate erosion and other coastal hazards, threaten vital infrastructure, and thus compromise the well-being of island communities. The Pacific RISA program provides critical support to Pacific island communities in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. (Photo: Cdr. John Bortniak, NOAA's America's Coastlines Collection)

## Environmental Change

Under the leadership of Senior Fellow Roland Fuchs, the inaugural conference for “Cities at Risk: Building Adaptive Capacity for Managing Climate Change in Asia’s Coastal Megacities,” held in Bangkok, brought together scientists, urban planners, disaster managers and policy makers to review scientific findings on climate related risks and assess the gaps in both the science and policy responses.

Senior Fellow Jefferson Fox received a grant (\$302,017) from International Resources Group to study Integrated Protected Area-Co-Management (IPAC) in Bangladesh.

Senior Fellow Melissa Finucane secured a \$3.4 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) in support of the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment (Pacific RISA) program for the next five years. The Pacific RISA supports stakeholders in Pacific island and coastal communities (Hawai‘i and U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands) in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate variability and change. As one of nine U.S. RISA programs, the Pacific RISA emphasizes the engagement of communities, governments, and businesses in developing effective policies to build resilience in key sectors such as water resource management, coastal and marine resources, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, disaster management, and public health.

## Regional Health and Population

The National Science Foundation awarded the Center \$1.4 million to study development’s role in the emergence of avian flu in Vietnam. Led by EWC researchers Jefferson Fox, Melissa Finucane, Sumeet Saksena, and Nancy Lewis, the inaugural project meeting, held at Hanoi University of Agriculture, included field visits to poultry producers and Vietnam's largest wholesale poultry market.

Senior Fellow Tim Brown and colleagues launched the *Guidelines* for their Analysis and Advocacy (A<sup>2</sup>) project at the International AIDS conference in Bali. A<sup>2</sup> improves responses to HIV in Asia by helping to build in-country capacity to develop a clear understanding of the local HIV/AIDS epidemic and to translate that understanding into effective national policies and appropriately targeted programs. Initiated in 2004 with USAID funding, the project rapidly expanded to five sites and has produced real world policy and program change. The *Guidelines* detail that process with the goal of helping other countries carry out similar initiatives.

Approximately 40 participants from 12 countries gathered at the Center for The 40th Summer Seminar on Population. The 30-day intensive program comprised workshops on HIV/AIDS modeling, fertility change in Asia, and communicating with policy makers.

## EWC International Conferences

EWC researchers were involved with the organization of a number of international conferences and workshops including:

**Standards and Innovation Policy in the Global Knowledge Economy – Core Issues for China and the U.S.** held in Beijing, co-sponsored by the National Bureau of Asian Research

**Pacific Island Man and the Biosphere Project** meeting, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Pacific Science Association, focusing on biodiversity conservation and sustainable socio-economic development

**Toward a Sustainable Transport System for Green Growth in the North Pacific** co-sponsored by the Korea Transportation Institute

**Fossil Fuels to Green Energy: Policy Schemes in Transition in the North Pacific** co-sponsored by the Korea Energy Economics Institute

**Institutions for Regionalism: Governance Issues for Regional Comparisons** co-sponsored by the Asian Development Bank

**Rural Livelihoods and Protected Landscapes: Co-management in the Wetlands and Forests of Bangladesh**, as an Integrated Protected Area Co-management Project (IPAC) Small Grants Program Research Design Workshop

**Governance for Sustainable Development: Global Practices and the Chinese Experience** held in Beijing as part of AGDI, co-sponsored by the China Center for Comparative Politics and Economics