

## Message from EWC President and Board of Governors Chairman



This issue of our Annual Report highlights the events of the Center's 50th year. The year both honored our proud legacy and prepared for a future in which building understanding and cooperation in the Asia Pacific region are more important than ever. Many people helped make this anniversary memorable. These include:

- ◆ Lynda Johnson Robb, the Honorable George R. Ariyoshi, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, and Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, who spoke at the Center's "Kick-Off Dinner" on January 9, 2010. Senator Inouye also joined our 50th anniversary dinner in Washington and spoke at our July Alumni Conference.
- ◆ Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who spoke at the Center on January 13, 2010 and returned in October to deliver a major Asia Pacific policy speech.
- ◆ The Honorable C.H. Tung, former Chief Executive of Hong Kong, the keynote speaker for the Center's International Graduate Student Conference in February and First Hawaiian Bank lecturer.
- ◆ East-West Center students and their guests who ran the International Graduate Student Conference.
- ◆ The more than 250 international media professionals who participated in the Second International Media Conference in Hong Kong in April.
- ◆ U.S. Trade Representative Ronald Kirk and Under-Secretary of State Judith McHale, who spoke at the annual U.S. Asia Pacific Council meeting in May and the associated 50th anniversary dinner in Washington.
- ◆ East-West Center Alumni chapter leaders and 800 alumni who participated in the 50th International Conference in July 1-4.

- ◆ University of Hawai'i President M.R.C. Greenwood and University of Hawai'i – Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, who warmly welcomed our alumni and supported the Center's celebration.
- ◆ The hundreds of individuals and corporations who contributed funds in 2010, making this the best year in the Center's history for private sector support.
- ◆ The Friends of the East-West Center, whose activities assist our participants and who run programs complementary to those of the Center.
- ◆ The more than 700 partner organizations who have joined us in our programs; and
- ◆ The members of the Center's Board of Governors and the Center Foundation Board who have contributed so much in time and financial support.
- ◆ The dedicated Center staff in Honolulu and Washington.

The East-West Center looks towards its second half century with both a deep sense of accomplishment and keen awareness of the challenges ahead.

The world and Asia Pacific region have changed dramatically since 1960: remarkable economic development; the growth of interdependence; and the vastly altered and more comprehensive set of U.S. interests and interactions in the region. As Secretary Clinton said in her January address, the East-West Center "has been part of this sea change, helping to shape ideas and train experts" and "bringing greater awareness and understanding to the economic, political, and security issues that dominate the region and the world today."

In early 2011, the Pew Research Center said Americans now see Asia as more important than Europe to their interests. This is part of the change in our region, in which trans-Pacific relationships are

becoming more and more symmetrical. Both sides recognize that no regional or global issue can be solved without cooperation between East and West.

Through "cooperative" study, training and exchange, the East-West Center seeks to develop a broad understanding of critical issues and their implications, deeper awareness among publics as well as policymakers, and above all, a new generation of leaders with enhanced capacity to appreciate and address regional and global issues. We emphasize the word "cooperative," taken from the original 1960 Congressional charter, as it envisioned exactly the kind of trans-Pacific partnerships that are needed for the 21st century.

One such partnership is the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, whose ministerial and leaders meetings will take place in Honolulu in November 2011. APEC is less than two decades old but has become the pre-eminent institution through which trans-Pacific cooperation takes place on a range of important socio-economic issues.

Early proposals for this cooperation were vetted at the East-West Center more than four decades ago, and the Center has been deeply involved in the planning and organization of Hawai'i's APEC meeting. APEC 2011 is a high priority in the Center's 51st year. We are working closely with local, state, federal, and foreign partners to ensure that this is an outstanding event that advances the future and institutions of our region, with the full participation of the United States.

Charles E. Morrison  
EWC President

Puongpun Sananikone  
EWC Board of Governors  
Chairman