

Secretary Clinton Presents Two Major Asia Pacific Policy Speeches in Honor of EWC's 50th Anniversary



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton laid out principles that “define America’s continued engagement and leadership in the region” in an address delivered at the East-West Center in January in observance of the Center’s 50th anniversary year. She later returned to Hawai‘i and delivered another speech hosted by the Center in October, which launched her Asia Pacific tour and elaborated on points she emphasized in her previous address.

“America’s future is linked to the future of the Asia Pacific region, and the future of this region depends on America,” she said in January, before an invited audience of EWC students, staff and Hawai‘i dignitaries. Clinton said that it should be clear that the Asia Pacific relationship is a priority for the United States. “We are working to deepen our historic ties, build new partnerships, work with existing multilateral organizations to pursue shared interests, and reach beyond governments to engage directly with people in every corner of this vast region,” she said.

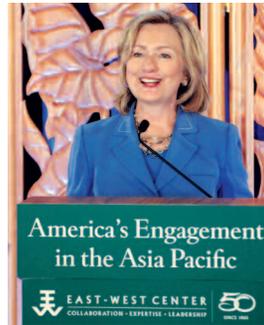
In outlining U.S. goals for multilateral engagement in the region, she called America’s longstanding nation-to-nation alliances the

EWC President Charles E. Morrison (center) and EWC Board of Governors Chairman Puongpun Sananikone welcome Secretary Clinton to the East-West Center.



“cornerstone” of U.S. involvement in the region. She cited relationships with such nations as Japan, South Korea, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines as being among “the most successful bilateral partnerships in modern history” and said other bilateral relationships would continue to develop.

Second, she said, regional institutions and efforts should focus on clear and increasingly shared objectives, such as enhancing security and stability, expanding economic opportunity and growth, and fostering democracy and human rights. Lastly, she emphasized that Asia Pacific nations, including the U.S., need to decide which will be the “defining” regional organizations.



Clinton delivered her second Asia Pacific address as she embarked on a two-week tour through the region, talking about U.S. intention to remain a leader in economic growth, regional security and human rights issues. Her trip included stops in Hawai‘i, Guam, Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Australia and American Samoa. Clinton noted her visit preceded one by President Barack Obama the following month when he visited India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea.

She said the two trips are part of a strategy of “forward-deployed” diplomacy in a region where much of the history of the 21st century will be written. “The Obama Administration has been intent on strengthening our leadership, increasing our engagement and putting into practice new ways of projecting our ideas and influence throughout this changing region,” she said.



“During the five decades since the Center opened, no region has undergone a more dramatic transformation. The East-West Center has been part of this sea change, helping to shape ideas and train experts. ...I thank all of you for bringing greater awareness and understanding to the economic, political and security issues that dominate the region and the world today.”

Clinton spent a portion of her talk on China, explaining that “in the 21st century, it is not in anyone’s interest for the United States and China to see each other as adversaries. So we are working together to chart a positive, cooperative, and comprehensive relationship for this new century.”

She said China has experienced breathtaking growth and development since the beginning of diplomatic relations with America, and that the U.S. is looking forward to working closely with China, both one-on-one and through key multinational institutions, as it takes on a greater role and more responsibility in regional and global affairs.

She listed North Korea, global sanctions for Iran, currency, trade and human rights among the important topics of discussion for the U.S. and China.

Clinton said that U.S. foreign policy in the region would continue to rely on fortifying long-standing alliances with countries such as Japan, South Korea, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines while developing emerging partnerships with

nations such as Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and New Zealand.

She said it also includes more participation in regional multilateral institutions, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Clinton’s visit to Vietnam marked the first time the U.S. participated in the East Asia Summit, a multilateral body that she said the U.S. hopes will become a substantive forum for pressing strategic and political issues such as nuclear nonproliferation, maritime security and climate change.

She said that many countries in the region continue to look to the U.S. “to help create the conditions for broad, sustained economic growth and to ensure security by effectively deploying our own military and to defend human rights and dignity by supporting strong democratic institutions.”

View video of Secretary Clinton’s Asia Pacific policy speeches at:

◆ vimeo.com/8744420 (January 2010)

◆ vimeo.com/16438205 (October 2010)



Secretary Clinton meets with members of the APEC 2011 Hawai'i Host Committee during the reception for her policy speech in October.