

## EWC Community Forums Address Development, International Cooperation, and Foreign Policy



Among the year-long series of community events commemorating the Center's 50th anniversary were programs on sustainable development, international cooperation, and foreign policy, which featured leaders from key cities in the Asia Pacific, a former chief executive of Hong Kong, and a prominent author and political analyst.

In the public forum, "Cities Rising: The International Role of the Metropolis Today," leaders of four Asia Pacific cities discussed how the world's major urban centers affect and are affected by global issues. The panel was part of the Center's second Urban Dialogue seminar for leaders and experts from Asia Pacific and U.S. cities.

Vice Mayor Tang Jie of the rapidly growing Chinese city of Shenzhen and Deputy Mayor Lin Chien-yuan of Taipei shared the stage with the Governor of Jakarta, Fauzi Bowo, as well as then-Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann. More than ever, they agreed, leaders of the world's expanding cities are playing a bigger role in global social and

environmental issues. Each of the leaders cited participation in international forums and sister-city relationships as important connections for the global roles they play, both in learning about and sharing ways of dealing with issues facing the whole world.

In the First Hawaiian Lecture and keynote address presented at the EWC International Graduate Student Conference, former Hong Kong Chief Executive C.H. Tung spoke of the dynamic economic growth in the region which has fueled the important role Asia plays today on the world stage. "It is remarkable the East-West Center was able to see this development half a century ago," he said, "by wisely setting up here and working to strengthen the exchanges between the United States and the Asia Pacific region."

If the 20th century was shaped by the conflict of great powers, Tung suggested, "The 21st century will be shaped by how we as a human race successfully take on challenges of energy security, climate change, food sufficiency and scarcity of natural

resources — all of which are issues crucial for sustainable development and economic growth."

At the George Chaplin Fellowship in Distinguished Journalism lecture in early April, *New York Times*' Chief Washington Correspondent David Sanger explained how President Obama has begun to "change America's direction abroad." In his presentation, he described a "rebalancing" of foreign policy concerns in Washington, with a gradual return to neglected issues, including those directly affecting Asia.

"[The president's] strategy of engagement has certainly changed the way America is perceived around the world," said Sanger, author of the bestselling book "The Inheritance," about the foreign policy dilemmas Obama faced when he took office. Sanger noted polls showing admiration for America has risen uniformly around the world since the president came into office.

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Taipei Deputy Mayor Lin Chien-yuan, Jakarta Governor Fauzi Bowo, and Shenzhen Vice Mayor Tang Jie listen to EWC President Charles E. Morrison's opening remarks at the "Cities Rising" Asia Pacific-U.S. Urban Dialogue public forum.

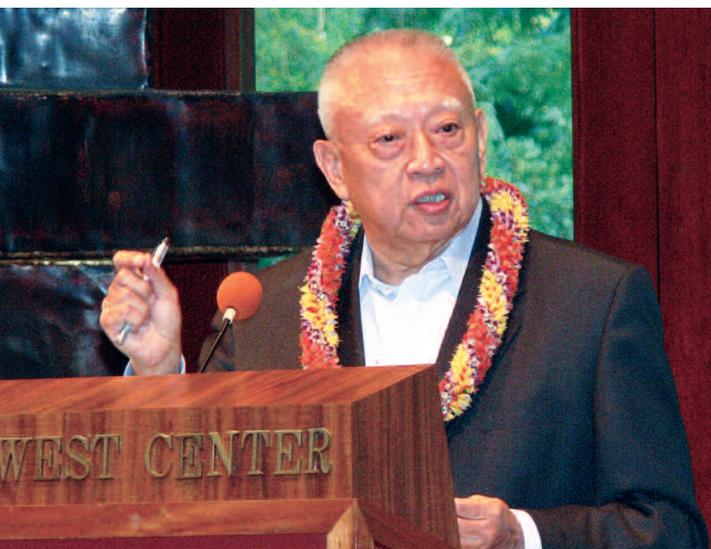


For video or summary of these events visit:

- ◆ [EastWestCenter.org/go/152](http://EastWestCenter.org/go/152) (Asia Pacific-U.S. Urban Dialogue)
- ◆ [vimeo.com/9592002](http://vimeo.com/9592002) (C. H. Tung)
- ◆ [vimeo.com/10884124](http://vimeo.com/10884124) (David Sanger)

(Photo above) Former Hong Kong Chief Executive C. H. Tung presents the keynote address at the EWC International Graduate Student Conference.

(Below) Leading journalist David Sanger delivers the Chaplin Fellowship address to a packed audience at the EWC.



## U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk Outlines Asia-Focused Trade Agenda at East-West Center's USAPC Washington Conference



President Obama is eager to seize the opportunity presented by the U.S. hosting of the APEC 2011 forum to demonstrate America's commitment to playing a stronger and more constructive role in the Asia Pacific region, said U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk in a keynote address at the U.S. Asia Pacific Council (USAPC) annual conference in Washington, D.C. in May.

Kirk described APEC 2011 as a potential "watershed moment" in U.S. economic engagement in the Asia Pacific and promised a "bold and ambitious" approach aimed at further advancing key non-tariff barriers to trade and investment issues, facilitating cheaper, easier, and faster trade in the region, and promoting trade and investment in environmental goods and services.

In keeping with the theme of the USAPC's day-long conference — "U.S.-Asia Pacific Relations: Transitions in a New Era" — Ambassador Kirk highlighted work underway on the 21st century "gold standard" trade accord with seven Asia Pacific countries. In negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), "we hope to build what will become the largest, most dynamic trade collaboration of our time," which ultimately would create and retain U.S. jobs, integrate U.S. companies in regional production and supply chains, and promote new technologies and emerging sectors, he said.

C. Fred Bergsten, Director of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, who participated in a panel discussion about the U.S.-Asia trade agenda, concurred that the TPP should be at the heart of U.S. trade policy for both economic and geopolitical reasons.

However, Bergsten and fellow panelist Edward Alden of the Council on Foreign Relations questioned the wisdom of making the TPP a "gold standard" agreement. By insisting on such high standards, Washington will have to try and include politically sensitive provisions covering agricultural trade and labor and environmental standards that could be deal-breakers, they said. Bergsten proposed that the Obama administration use the solid, but less politically contentious U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement as a model for the TPP.

Conference speakers and panels also delved into such topics as the U.S. Congress and China; prospects for balanced, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Asia Pacific region; U.S. alliances and partnership in the region; and use of the internet to facilitate political activism and development of civil society.

*(The USAPC, founded in 2003 by the East-West Center, is a non-partisan organization composed of prominent American experts and opinion leaders whose aim is to promote and facilitate greater U.S. engagement with the Asia Pacific region.)*



U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk

For transcripts and summaries of presentations from the 2010 USAPC Washington Conference, visit:

◆ [EastWestCenter.org/go/149](http://EastWestCenter.org/go/149)