The East-West Center Arts Program has enriched the community for three decades through exhibitions, performances, lecture-demonstrations, and hands-on workshops focusing on traditional arts of the Asia Pacific region. In 2010, more than 20,000 adults and youth experienced the Center’s arts programs. Outreach initiatives primarily targeted “at-risk” youth by conducting school programs in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.


Throughout the year, the Center’s Arts Program hosted several performing artists-in-residence beginning in March with the Tokyo-based music ensemble AURA-J. The ensemble introduced numerous school students, senior citizen groups, and the general public to traditional and contemporary Japanese instrumental music.

In April, Kabu ni Vanua, one of the most accomplished traditional music and dance ensembles in Fiji, spent an 11-day residency at the East-West Center. The performers presented concerts and educational demonstrations to audiences of more than 9,300 people during its tour of Hawai‘i.

In May, musicians and performers from the Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts in Chittagong introduced the rich traditions of Bengali folk music to a wide range of Hawai‘i audiences.

In September, the renowned Hands Percussion Team drum ensemble from Malaysia captivated Hawai‘i audiences with their dynamic, multicultural rhythms that combined respect for cultural tradition with innovative, contemporary performances on instruments drawn from a diverse range of percussion cultures.

Culminating in November, two sold-out concerts of Indonesian music and dance featured dance masters from Bali and Java joined by the University of Hawai‘i gamelan orchestras.

To view selected works from EWC exhibitions visit the EWC Virtual Gallery at:
EastWestCenter.org/go/151

Fifty Years, Fifty Stories highlights the lives and achievements of 50 alumni. Each has a unique story to share demonstrating leadership tied to service, expertise and collaboration— which many trace to their days at the East-West Center. Included are world leaders such as India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, champions for the poor such as Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus and microcredit pioneer Ann Dunham Soetoro, and notables like Kathleen Hall Jamieson, highly respected analyst of media and politics. Many are trailblazers influencing change at the grassroots, local, national, regional and international levels, others are emerging leaders dedicated to forging better futures for their communities.

To view a pdf, go to: EastWestCenter.org/pubs/3508
EWC International Delegations Observe Elections in Solomon Islands and Bougainville

In 2010, the East-West Center’s Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) organized two multinational election observation missions for key elections in the Pacific. Papua New Guinea’s Autonomous Bougainville Region held elections for President and the House of Representatives in May; and in August, the Solomon Islands conducted national parliamentary elections. “The EWC-led observation teams from across the Asia Pacific region sought to enhance the environment for free and fair balloting,” said Gerard Finin, PIDP’s Deputy Director and the delegation project director.

The nine-member delegation to Bougainville, consisting of three PIDP staff members, two election officials from the Federated States of Micronesia, and academics and civil society representatives from Fiji, Australia, the Solomon Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, coordinated the complicated logistical arrangements, built relationships with election officials, and interviewed several of the candidates.

“Arriving before the elections was instrumental to the process,” said PIDP’s Scott Kroeker. “It takes time to establish relationships.” The delegation members reported that this election, which took place over a two-week period involving 640 polling stations, was a significant step forward for Bougainville in its post-conflict rebuilding efforts in that the process was peaceful, highly transparent, and voter turnout was high.

The EWC mission to the Solomon Islands was among several delegations that observed the election. Headed by Sandra Sumang Pierantozzi, former Vice President and former Minister of the State of the Republic of Palau, the delegation included representatives from eight countries including Australia, Mongolia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Timor-Leste and the United States.

On Election Day, observers traveled by air, land, and sea to visit more than 150 polling stations throughout the country. Additionally, delegates observed the chain of transmission of the ballot boxes from a number of polling places to the provincial tabulation centers and witnessed the early tabulation process at various sites.

The Election Observation Missions were conducted in cooperation with the United Nations and under the auspices of the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership, a multilateral collaboration of Asia Pacific countries to promote and strengthen democratic processes in the region. The East-West Center coordinated the projects through grants from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

As voter turnout was high in the Solomon Islands, people waited in long lines to cast their vote.