Asian Studies Development Program

2011 China Field Seminar:

**Frontiers: Culture, Nature and Industry from China’s Northeast to the World Expo**

June 19 – July 10, 2011

The 2011 China Field Seminar is an activity of the China-US Faculty Exchange Program initiated in 2001. The program is co-sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education, Peking University and the Asian Studies Development Program, a joint project of the East-West Center and University of Hawai’i.

The goal of this seminar is to explore modern Chinese history, culture, and politics. An excursion into Northeast China will be bracketed by several days in Beijing and in Shanghai, “frontier” cities in terms of China’s global outreach internationally, economically and culturally.

The Northeast region of China, commonly known as *dongbei* 东北 (literally east-north), is among the country’s most culturally and historically fascinating. From that area, the Xianbei and the Khitan helped establish the Sui and Song dynasties, and the Manchus ruled China during the Qing dynasty (1644-1912). During Sino-Japanese conflict of the early 20th century, the area was referred to as Manchukuo. Home to generations of Chinese-Korean and Chinese-Russian minorities, and with borders adjoining Russia, North Korea and Mongolia, the Northeast remains an important geo-political “frontier.”

It is impossible to fully understand China’s recent industrial, economic, and cultural development without taking into account the importance of northeastern China, and how that region has complemented development in urban centers such as Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing, as well as China’s coastal regions. With extraordinary mountain ranges to the north and the gulf of Buohai in the south, *dongbei* is rich in natural resources, and since the 1950s has been a center for many state-run heavy industry enterprises, light industries and oil. The region continues to be strategically important in China’s emergence as a global economic and political powerhouse.

The seminar will start in Beijing at Peking University before traveling northeast to Yanji in Jilin province, a city across the border from North Korea and an important economic and cultural center of the Korean minority in China. The next stop will be Ha’erbin in Heilongjiang province, a center of the Chinese-Russian minority. In the late 1800s, Ha’erbin was the terminus for an extension of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Following the defeat of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5), the city became an important international metropolis. Considered one of China’s most beautiful cities, Ha’erbin offers a unique combination of Chinese and European architectural styles. The seminar will include a visit to Daqing, a city established in 1959 for the oil, gas and petrochemical industries that is advocated as a model of good practice in industry and healthcare. The Daqing oilfield is China’s largest oilfield and the world’s fourth most productive. The field seminar will conclude with several days in Shanghai.

Professor Fred Lau, Director of the University of Hawaii Center for Chinese Studies and UH Professor of Ethnomusicology will lead the Field Seminar. Dr. Lau has led several ASDP field studies to China and brings a broad knowledge of Chinese history, culture and contemporary developments to the field seminar. ASDP staff representative will be Betty Buck, Senior Fellow, Education Program, East-West Center. Professor Niu Ke, Professor of History at Peking University, will advise on and accompany the field study.

June 19 Arrive in Beijing, check-in at Shao-Yuan, Beida (Peking University)

June 20-24 Beijing

June 25 Travel to Yanji

June 26-28 Yanbian and its vicinity

June 29 Travel to Ha’erbin

June 30-July 4 Ha’erbin and its vicinity, including Daqing

July 5 Travel to Shanghai

July 6-10 Shanghai and Hangzhou

July 11 Departure

This field seminar is suitable for travelers who are comfortable participating in full-day activities that involve 3-5 hours of daily physical activity visiting historical, urban and rural sites. One should be able to walk 3 miles unassisted over the course of a day. The terrain will range from city streets to rural paths. In July, the weather will most likely be hot and humid. Participants share double rooms. Luggage is limited to one 22-inch suitcase and a smaller carry-on bag. The group is limited to fourteen participants; no accompanying family or friends. Group participation is important to the success of the program.

The program fee is $750. Participants are responsible for securing and paying for their Chinese visa, and their international travel from the US to Beijing and from Shanghai back to the US. Housing, most meals, admissions, and air and ground transportation in China will be provided.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2011, in hand. (applications accepted as email attachment to: [osakis@eastwestcenter.org](mailto:osakis@eastwestcenter.org)) Information on how to apply can be found on the East-West Center web site under Education. [www.eastwestcenter.org](../Local%20Settings/tempinternetfiles/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/OLK26/www.eastwestcenter.org)

For further information on applying, contact Sandy Osaki, ASDP Program Assistant:

808-944-7373; [Osakis@Eastwestcenter.org](mailto:Osakis@Eastwestcenter.org).

For information on the program, contact Fred Lau at [fredlau@hawaii.edu](mailto:fredlau@hawaii.edu) or Betty Buck at Bucke@eastwestcenter.org.