



# THE JEFFERSON FELLOWSHIPS

**Applications now open for the 2015 Program**

**Deadline: Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

The Jefferson Fellowships offer print and broadcast journalists from the United States, Asia and the Pacific Islands the unique opportunity to gain on-the-ground perspectives and build a professional network through an intensive one-week education and dialogue seminar at the East-West Center in Honolulu followed by two weeks of study tour travel in the Asia Pacific-U.S. region.

**The 2015 Jefferson Fellowships program:**

## **The South China Sea: Trade, Resources and Conflict**

Honolulu, Hawaii; Beijing & Hainan, China; Manila & Masinloc, Philippines; and Singapore  
May 2-23, 2015

The seas are vitally important to the Asia Pacific region. Countries in the region are heavily dependent on international trade and imported energy, the bulk of which travel by sea. They are the source of much of the protein in the diets of many countries in the region, a demand that is increasing as middle classes grow. They have potentially valuable energy and mineral resources. The South China Sea is one of the world's most heavily used transit corridors and is the key route for trade as well as the imported energy fueling regional economies. It is estimated that roughly half a billion people live within 100 miles of the coasts of the South China Sea and the seas are rich in fishing and hydrocarbon resources. There have long been disputes over sovereignty, overlapping exclusive economic zones and competing claims, but increased demand for resources and shifting geopolitics have heightened these tensions, creating conflict and an urgent need for regional coordination in the seas. These tensions can hinder needed cooperation on other critical challenges of sustainable management of sea-based resources, protecting the environment, combating criminal activities such as poaching and piracy, and ensuring the stable and efficient freedom of navigation that plays a key role in Asia's growth and prosperity.

The 2015 Jefferson Fellowships will provide journalists with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of these complex issues including the role that oceans play in the prosperity and security of Asia Pacific countries, the legal frameworks that govern the use of the seas, the roles of various countries and organizations in enforcing these rules, the disputes over ownership of maritime territory in the South China Sea and the prospects for the way forward. In Honolulu journalists will learn about these issues and the role of the United States from regional experts, US military officials, and presentations by one another. Travel to China and the Philippines will provide first hand perspectives from two of the key claimants in South China Sea disputes. Visits to the capital cities as well as local communities bordering the South China Sea will explore the importance of the seas to both countries—one a continental rising global power and the other a developing island nation. In Singapore, participants will explore the business of trade by sea in a city-state highly dependent on maritime transshipment for its prosperity and one of the gateways to the Malacca Strait, through

which almost 50,000 ships carrying half the world's trade and one-third of global oil pass each year. Singapore also offers an opportunity to explore strategies and scenarios for regional cooperation in managing territorial disputes as well as efforts to mitigate piracy and manage congestion in these vital shipping lanes.

### **Who May Apply**

The Fellowships are open to working print, broadcast, and online journalists in the United States, the Pacific Islands, and Asia. A minimum five years of professional experience is preferred. Applicants must have the ability to communicate in English in a professional, multi-cultural environment. Preference will be given to journalists who clearly articulate the relevance of the theme to their areas of coverage and how they intend to use the knowledge gained to enhance the perspectives of viewers, readers, and listeners. Ideally every journalist or editor or producer will generate media content from the program.

### **Program Purpose and Content**

The Jefferson Fellowships program was launched in 1967 to enhance public understanding through the news media of cultures, issues and trends in the Asia Pacific region, broadly defined as Asia, the Pacific Islands and the United States. The long-range goal is to help news organizations build staff expertise about regional concerns and trends, so that their readers, viewers and listeners may be better informed.

The Fellowships provide the participating journalists with new knowledge and a wide range of perspectives through dialogue with professional colleagues and meetings with business and government decision-makers, scholars and students, social activists, cultural analysts and others. These contacts, and a network of more than 600 former Jefferson Fellows, provide participants with resources on whom to call when they plan, assign, edit and produce news coverage involving or affecting the region, especially, but not exclusively, related to the program theme.

The first week of the program consists of dialogue among the Fellows, including a short seminar led by each Fellow; lecture discussions with East-West Center researchers and other experts; and field visits. This will be followed by a study tour to cities in Asia and/or the United States.

### **Professional Exchange**

One essential element of this professional experience is the journalist-to-journalist exchange. Central to this is a presentation that each Fellow will give to his or her fellow participants. **Each Fellow is required to prepare and submit two weeks before arriving at the Center a short paper (1,000–1,500 words).** The paper should address a significant issue in the participant's country that is relevant to the theme of the program and discuss how the country – at the government, private sector and/or socio-cultural level – is responding to the issue. The Jefferson Fellowships coordinator will work with invited Fellows to develop a series of presentations relevant to the theme. **Each Fellow also will make an oral presentation (approximately 15 minutes) based on the previously submitted paper and participate in discussion of his or her topic.**

The purpose of the presentations is to tap the education and experience of participating journalists in ways that will be professionally useful to fellow participants as they study, assess, and report in their media on the themes of the program and the Asia Pacific region.

### **Study Tour Travel**

After 5 days in Honolulu, all of the Fellows will travel together to Beijing, Hainan Island, Manila, Masinloc and Singapore for an intensive 17-day program of meetings and visits. The East-West Center will coordinate the travel segment of the program, working with on-the-ground partners in each city as well as its network of alumni, including former Jefferson Fellows, who often volunteer to host, guide and advise traveling Fellows, and to arrange appointments and interviews. The study tour program will close on May 23 in Singapore. Participants return to their home countries on May 24.

### **Funding**

The Jefferson Fellowships are supported by a grant from **The Freeman Foundation and by the East-West Center**.

These funds provide for 10-13 full or partial scholarships, including approximately 4-5 for qualified American journalists and 7-8 for Asia Pacific journalists.

**All participants, regardless of amount of scholarship, must pay an \$800 programming fee to cover costs not provided by the scholarship funds.** Participants are also responsible for all applicable visa fees, any additional visa-related expenses, health insurance and baggage fees.

The direct costs for participation in this intensive educational, dialogue, and reporting program are valued at approximately\* \$9000 and include:

- Roundtrip airfare to and from your home country and throughout the study tour
- Lodging in each of the fellowship cities
- Provided program meals and a modest per diem to cover meals not provided
- Ground transportation and airport transfers
- Cultural activities and networking opportunities
- Interpretation in China and the Philippines
- Pro-rated program costs such as speaker honorariums, cooperating organization costs and meeting rooms
- Participant Resource Binder and pre-arrival background readings
- Thumb drive of fellowship documents, speaker PowerPoint presentations and photos
- Experienced escorts with knowledge of regional issues and the 2015 theme

We encourage media organizations to cost share programs costs and/or airfare. Cost sharing is seen as an indication of the commitment of media organizations to the value of the program and their willingness to invest in the participating journalist. It is an important consideration of the Selection Committee. **The "Employer's Statement of Support" indicating cost sharing is required for all applicants.**

Journalists also are welcome to offer cost sharing on their own or identify other sponsors to cost share participation, such as local foundations. Please complete a second copy of the Employer Statement of Support form and indicate who is providing the cost sharing.

\*airfares may be higher or lower from different countries

## **How To Apply**

**All applicants must fill out the Jefferson Fellowships application form**, which can be downloaded from the website.

**In addition to the application form**, applicants must also provide all of the following:

- **A letter outlining the following** (maximum three pages, double-spaced, please):
  - what you expect to accomplish if an award is granted and what issues you want to explore/write about during the program. Please share specific story ideas or details of how this will enhance your work as reporter/editor/producer, etc.;
  - a brief description of your news organization and your role;
  - topics you propose to address in your paper and presentation at the East-West Center (please see the full program announcement for more information about this requirement of the program). This should be a perspective from your own country on an issue or issues related to the theme of the program.

The strongest applicants will make a case for why this theme is relevant to their beat and/or their country, how their reporting will stand to benefit from this opportunity, and will offer specific, relevant story ideas (in their role as an editor, producer, reporter, columnist, etc).

- **A letter of recommendation on official letterhead from your supervisor** describing your suitability for the Fellowship and the benefit the organization hopes to derive from your participation in the program. Freelance journalists are welcome to apply; please send a letter on official letterhead from a media organization that regularly accepts and publishes or airs your work. **If your media organization is not paying your program fee or providing financial support, supervisors should indicate why not.**
- **The “Employer’s Statement of Support” form** completed by your employer (third page of application form). Freelancers must also submit the Employer Statement of Support form. Please write “Freelancer” for employer name.
- **Names, addresses, phone/fax numbers and e-mail of three people** who may be contacted by the Center as references. Two of these references should be people outside your news organization.

**Complete applications must be submitted by Tuesday, January 27 by:**

E-mail: [jefferson@eastwestcenter.org](mailto:jefferson@eastwestcenter.org)

OR

Fax: 808-944-7600

For inquiries about the application process, please call: 808-944-7727.

Questions about the Fellowships program should be directed to: Ann Hartman, Coordinator, [hartmana@eastwestcenter.org](mailto:hartmana@eastwestcenter.org); 808-944-7619

NOTE: Please indicate “Jefferson Fellowships Application” in the subject heading of your e-mail or fax. We will confirm receipt of the application within 5 working days. If you do not hear back from us, please follow up.