

Quarterly Reports from EWCA Alumni Chapters (2nd Quarter 2020)

East-West Center Association

Chapter Development Committee, Quarterly Reports

2020 2nd Quarter Chapter Reports (April to June)

Editor: Dr. Jessica A. Sheetz-Nguyen

Vice President for Chapter Development

Thank you to the 14 Chapters who submitted their second-quarter reports for 2020. Chapter submissions help us and others to know about your activities and your continued patronage for EWCA/EWC outreach. The following Chapters and representatives responded this quarter.

These include:

1) APLP (Blaine Baldwin); 2) Brisbane, Australia (Iraphne Childs); 3) Chandigarh, India (Rajesh Kumar Aggarwal); 4) Chennai, India (Sonna Belliappa Pemanda); 5) Dhaka, Bangladesh (Abu Ekramul Ahsan); 6) Hong Kong (Mark Sheldon); 7) Kansai, Japan (Fumiteru Nitta); 8) Karachi, Pakistan (Ghzala Fasih); 9) New York (Bill Armbruster); 10) Seoul, Republic of Korea (Eunyoung Cho); 11) Singapore (Alice Seok Hoon Seng); 12) Southern California, USA (Claire Langham); 13) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Tsolmontuya Altankhundaga); 14) Vientiane, Laos (Chanthavong Saignasith)

ASIA PACIFIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (APLP) CHAPTER

President: Blaine Baldwin

A couple of highlights of APLP Alumni 2nd quarter were the success of doing Virtual Pau Hana in our 19 separate generations and the publishing of the 20th issue of *The APLP Navigator*. Nearly all of the Virtual Pau Hana took place over Zoom and had at least 10 participants. In total at least 225 alumni participated and had a great time catching up with their fellow generation cohorts, sharing their experiences since they completed their time in Hawai'i, and making plans to meet up again. A few of the Pau Hana lasted more than two hours and one even lasted four hours. The Virtual Pau Hana were a huge success and hope to be done again in the future. The 20th issue of [The APLP Navigator](#) included write-ups by APLP alumni and included a message about Black Lives Matter, a message from the EWC staff, a few updates from alumni, and information on a logo redesign contest for *The Navigator*.

As for the COVID-19 Pandemic, our alumni have been affected in various ways from changes with jobs, getting ill with the virus and recovering, seeing family experience the illness, and alumni doing activities within their community in various leadership roles. Our alumni are spread out among 6 continents so the timing and experiences with the virus have varied greatly but all have seen an impact that the Pandemic has had on either their community or surrounding communities at the very least.

The APLP alumni board had two meetings during the quarter with good participation in both. We continue to hold meetings about once a month with roughly 10 out of around 20 board members being able to join in on the call.

BRISBANE CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Iraphne Childs

The Brisbane Chapter has not met recently, has not been active and we have no news to report.

Fortunately, Australia as a whole has done very well in controlling COVID-19. Although there are clusters emerging in Victoria at present, Queensland has had no new cases for a couple of weeks and restrictions are being eased. Our Chapter members are fine.

CHANDIGARH CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Rajesh Kumar Aggarwal

We, at Chandigarh (India) Chapter are fine. Though there are no activities in this quarter due to obvious reasons of curfew and lockdown. We, at our level, are advocating social distancing, wearing of masks and use of sanitizer and soap for frequent handwashing.

CHENNAI CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Sonna Belliappa Pemanda

Chennai is in a state of lockdown. As a result, the Committee has not met for approximately four months nor have we been able to organise programmes. In the circumstances we have nothing to report for the quarter under review. Trust this will find all of you well.

DHAKA CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Abu Ekramul Ahsan

Chapter Meeting

No formal Chapter meeting could be held during this period. Neither was it possible to hold virtual meeting. However, there had been some online communications among selected members of the Chapter Committee by way of text messages and telephone calls.

Effect of Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic in our community- specific condition in the community and in the Country in general

The COVID-19 pandemic affected our community as it did in other places and globally. The communities as a whole have been seriously affected. As of today (30 June 2020), over 14,801 persons have been reported to be corona virus infected (positive) in Bangladesh with total reported death is 1,783 persons (Source: Government of Bangladesh and WHO). The number is increasing every day.

The Chapter as an organization has not been able to actively engage in any systematic program in combating the Corona-19 but many of us (EWC Alumni and friends) individually and jointly tried to help the distressed people (mostly daily workers who because of lockdown are jobless and income-less) receive some cash and food packages and personal protection items (face mask and gloves).

The first phase of the lockdown (government declared) has just ended with, however, not much impact in combating the corona virus as the number of infected persons and death have been increasing every day. Now the government has taken a policy of zoning the area according to severity of corona virus infection. The most affected areas have been categorized as RED zones while moderately affected areas have been categorized as YELLOW zones. The GREEN zone is considered to be a not seriously affected area. The areas under RED zone and YELLOW zone have been put under strict lockdown conditions. The policy has just been partially implemented and being supervised jointly by the local authority with the support of law enforcement agencies (Police and Army). The lockdown has serious negative impact on livelihood, causing large scale food and nutrition security through negative effects on economic activities, industrial production systems, exports, serious unemployment and large scale urban-rural migration because of lack of employment opportunity.

HONG KONG CHAPTER

Alumni Liaison: Mark Sheldon

Nothing to report from Hong Kong, just grim news. Hong Kong's handling of the pandemic pretty good, all things considered. We are at **1120 total cases, only 4 deaths, and 1070 returned home, recovered** after hospital care. We are a public health success story, an oasis in the horrific, global pandemic sea. However, we are a political train wreck, with China now imposing a national security law, by-passing the Hong Kong Government, the Legislative Council, and the normal public consultation processes, **entirely**. The city is tense and on edge, waiting for the shoe to drop in the next month or so. We are well-past 9,000 arrests and likely many more coming leading up to the July 1st traditional day of mass marching and protest, and surely leading up to the early September Legislative Council elections. My own view is that we'll face more repression, more aggressive policing, surely some candidates being disqualified using the new law or other means, and that the PRC authorities may not allow the September election to go forward. "Rule by law," more than ever. Likely a big dent in civil society activities and in any group, party and/or activity related to the Pan-Democratic movement here, broadly defined. Great concerns for press freedom, freedom of assembly, and surely Hong Kong's international status and practice, going forward. The election may be cancelled or postponed. The mechanisms and infrastructures of international education and exchange in the Hong Kong higher education sector have basically collapsed. So, grim days, a dicey and dangerous time. Of course, I wish I had better news to report. The Hong Kong we knew, the protections of "One Country, Two Systems" and the Basic Law, basically gone, in broad daylight, now basically dead.

I'll keep you posted. Dr. Shive is still in Scotland. I'm here until late summer, then back to the U.S., to my other university affiliation, **Illinois Wesleyan University** in Central Illinois, for the Fall. Difficult days there, too, with the impact of the pandemic on liberal arts institutions leading to difficult decisions, program reductions, even departmental closures. More tough days ahead, trying to decide what the mode of educational delivery should be for the Fall given the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the pandemic. Illinois doing better than most States regarding the virus, but still many challenges for institutions. I'm sure you are only too aware of them . . .

I hope you and all the colleagues and friends at the Center and UH are well. Take good care. Be well, stay safe and healthy.

KANSAI CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Fumiteru Nitta



Kansai Chapter had an online board meeting on Saturday May 16 and discussed the following:

- a) Caught up with fellow Chapter members with each other; one common idea among members who teach at the college level was that the spring time and the new school year (started in April) have been the most hectic ones with a new type of instruction: online classes.
- b) Decided to have the general Chapter meeting of the new fiscal year on Saturday July 11th online. A social gathering will follow after the general meeting, during which fellow members Seiko Furuhashi and Fumi Nitta will provide entertainments.
- c) Will also invite Mamoru Tsukada of Nagoya Chapter and Hitomi Yokote of Tokyo Chapter to the meeting as observers.

In our general meeting in July, it looks like we will have more members and observers than before because it will be done online. Wouldn't be possible without COVID-19! As elsewhere around the world, our lifestyles have changed drastically such as social distancing, talking with masks on, as well as online communications. It seems to me that tele-work and online meetings and parties may have some positive points!

KARACHI CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Aamir Latif

Submitted by Ghazala Fasih

Thanks for your kind words and best wishes sent off and on during this testing time' it really made us feel like a family member of the East West community. As Pakistan also has a severe

outbreak of Coronavirus, we are facing lockdown. All official activities are being carried out from homes. Zoom meetings 'Video conferences and webinars are the face of work. Karachi Chapter, through its WhatsApp group, is actively sharing pandemic updates' valuable information and motivational posts. This sharing is a close contact while maintaining social distance.

This past quarter has only the online activities I mentioned above. I hope next quarter will have the usual activities as before the pandemic and we, along with the world, will be able to rejoice normal life.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Bill Armbruster

We haven't had any events during the second quarter. The only notable event was the sad passing on April 19 of Douglas Murray, who served as vice president of the EWC during the 1980s and who was one of the most stalwart members of the NY chapter. I believe he was 84.

We hope to have a meeting in person sometime this fall, but if that isn't possible, I will organize a Zoom webinar for the chapter.

SEOUL CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Won Nyon Kim

Report submitted by Eun Young Cho

In Korea we are still strongly encouraged to refrain from offline meetings and to communicate through social media instead. In this 'untact' era, we have come to recognize that we are all 'connected' more than ever before. We are each other's environment. We all hope to get out of this 'new normal' to normal. In the meantime, we wish everybody to stay safe, as safely as possible. Wishing the best for all the members.

SINGAPORE CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Alice Seok-Hoon Seng

Our Singapore chapter did not meet at all during the second quarter due to COVID-19. We were on lockdown for slightly over 2 months. We were able to call each other.

The only nice event which occurred was the nomination and election of Glenn van Zutphen to the EWCA Executive Board for three years, beginning in 2020. The chapter has sent him our heartiest congratulations.

The chapter hopes to make a zoom meeting in July. We are all keeping safe and well, especially our senior alumni.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Chapter President: Claire Langham

We have no news on any EWCA Southern California (So CA) Chapter activities, but I would like to have the opportunity to communicate and hear from others.

Yesterday, I learned about the demise of an EWC alumna, former So CA member Diane Watanabe, who had moved to the Kahala Nui retirement community in Hawai'i. I heard this news from one of our chapter members who stayed in touch with Diane.

Wish all 4th of July greetings, stay safe.

UILAANBAATAR CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Tsolmontuya Altankhundaga



Ms. Erdene Batzorig (PhD), Alumna of Asia Pacific Leadership Program G-17 ran for the Mongolia Parliamentary Election 2020 on June 24th. She didn't make it to the Parliament this time but thank you to Erdene for her tremendous contribution to the Mongolian Green environment growth.

Read *The Corner Interviews* with Alumni from Mongolia In English at www.ewca-

ulaanbaatar.com

VIENTIANE CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Chanthavong Saignasith

Kindly be informed that there are only 19 of COVID-19 cases in Laos so far. All 19 infected patients have been treated and recovered. No new case of infection is reported in the past two months. All Lao EWC Alumni are safe from COVID-19 infection.

There is no EWC Alumni activity to be reported for this report period.