

Quarterly Reports from EWCA Alumni Chapters (3rd Quarter 2020)

East-West Center Association

Chapter Development Committee, Quarterly Reports
2020 3rd Quarter Chapter Reports (July to September)
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) ASDP (Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen); 3) Brisbane, Australia (Iraphne Childs); 4) Dhaka, Bangladesh (Abu Ekramul Ahsan); 5) Faisalabad, Pakistan (Muhammad Ibrahim); 6) Hawai'i, USA (Carl Hefner); 7) Hong Kong (Mark Sheldon); 8) Jakarta, Indonesia (Irid Agoes); 9) Kansai, Japan (Fumiteru Nitta); 10) New York (Bill Armbruster); 11) Northern California, USA (Barbara Stumph); 12) Singapore (Alice Seok Hoon Seng); 13) Southern California, USA (Claire Langham); 14) Taipei, Taiwan (Gary Lin)

ASIA PACIFIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (APLP) CHAPTER

President: Blaine Baldwin

During the 3rd quarter of 2020 the APLP Alumni Board met 3 times. Several of our members presented and participated in the virtual Gen² conference which the East-West Center Leadership Program organized for its alumni.

The third quarter [APLP Navigator](#) was published at the end of September and features the Hokule'a and the Laysan albatross. We are also kicking off a Force for Good, an APLP alumni initiative to activate our 600+ strong alumni to be a Force for Good to help fellow Alumni members whose social purpose organizations or projects have been impacted by COVID-19. We continue to see alumni members and their families impacted with the COVID-19 virus as well as its impact on the society that many of us live in.

ASIAN STUDIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ASDP) CHAPTER

President: Dennis Arjo
Report submitted by Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen

The Asian Studies Development Program Alumni Chapter (ASDP) held elections in May, and we have a new exciting slate of officers. Our incoming president is Dr. Dennis Arjo, Professor of Philosophy at Johnson County Community; our vice president is Dr. Matthew Ruane, Assistant Professor of History at Florida International of Technology. Our secretary is Dr. Barbara Lass, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at City College of San Francisco. Our new members at

large are: Dr. Roslyn Schoen, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Texas A&M University, Central Texas, and Dr. Deborah Williams, Professor of Environmental Science and Biology at Johnson County Community College, will join Dr. Taine Duncan, Associate Professor and Chair of Gender Studies at Central Arkansas University. They will also join our treasurer, Dr. Eric Spears, Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Eminent Scholar and Chair of Global Engagement at Columbus State University (Georgia).

The ASDP Alumni Chapter has been meeting monthly to plan for their annual conference. Although they had scheduled the meeting in San Diego, CA, during the first week of March 2021, they recognized the many challenges COVID 19 posed to its success. The Alumni Board voted to hold a virtual conference for the first time. All members of the Greater East-West Center Alumni Association community are very welcome to join us for the conference, titled [Knowing Practices Intersecting](#). The ASDP Alumni Board are also delighted to announce [Ian Johnson](#), known for his scholarship on religion in contemporary China, *The Souls of China: The Return of Religion after Mao*, as well as publications in *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, as our keynote speaker! Please consider joining us and, better yet, giving a paper to celebrate our 28th national conference.

BRISBANE CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Iraphne Childs

The Brisbane Chapter was pleased to be contacted regarding the proposal to the US Embassy Australia to host the 2021 Young Pacific Leaders Workshop on Civic Leadership. As you know, we are a very small chapter in Brisbane, but would welcome the opportunity to assist with the workshop late next year if our regional continued success in suppressing COVID makes such an event possible.

Our chapter has not met in the past few months due to COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, so we don't have much news. Our chapter members are all OK and Australia in general has done very well in terms of controlling the virus. Most States, including our home state of Queensland, now have very few or no cases. State border closures have really helped this, despite the inevitable downturn in the economy. The State of Victoria has had a serious 2nd wave surge over the past few months, but now has only a few cases per day and is starting to ease restrictions. Victoria initiated a strict lockdown for this 2nd wave which seems to have worked 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 a virtual meeting. However, there were some online commutations among selected members of the Chapter Committee by way of text messages and telephone calls.

Effect of Corona Virus (COVID-19) Pandemic

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 the 24th September 2020, a total of 353,844 persons have been reported to be corona virus infected in Bangladesh with total reported death of 5,044 persons. Bangladesh ranked 15th globally in terms of number of persons affected. by Corona virus. (Source: Department of Health Services Government of Bangladesh and WHO). The numbers of infected persons and death have been increasing ever since.

The Chapter as an organization has not been able to actively engage in any systematic program in combating the COVID-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) received some cash and food packages and personal protection items (Face Mask and Gloves) and hand sanitization chemicals. The practice has been continuing throughout.

The lockdown imposed by the government has not been found very effective did not have much impact in combating the corona virus as the number of infected persons and deaths have been increasing every day. Although not officially announced, in reality, the lockdown does not exist and the standard health guidelines in terms of using face mask and gloves and maintaining social distance are not adequately and effectively practiced, particularly in transportation systems. Train, bus and even Government run airline started carrying passengers without adopting social distance principle.

FAISALABAD CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Muhammad Ibrahim

We could not have activities during the corona virus period but we have contributed Pakistan Ruppees 40000/ for people who were closed down due to corona virus.

HAWAI'I CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Carl Hefner

The Hawaii Chapter wishes you all well, and hopes that you and your families are following all recommended guidelines for staying safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. As previously announced, our Annual EWCA Hawaii Chapter Dinner normally held at the Pacific Club is postponed until we see what the situation is in 2021. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome all new students to the EWC and are ready and willing to assist when needed. Our Chapter President, Dr. Carl Hefner was invited to attend the recent virtual meeting of the newest group of students in the EWC Mentoring program and it was evident that these excellent pairings are poised for success.

HONG KONG CHAPTER

Alumni Liaison: Mark Sheldon

I have nothing to report from the Hong Kong Chapter. As you surely know, times are tough in the HKSAR, with the new national security law and the collapse of much of Hong Kong's higher education infrastructure related to exchanges and international collaborations. Trump has now cancelled the Fulbright Program entirely for Hong Kong and China.

The Hong Kong - America Center which served as the Fulbright Commission in Hong Kong (based at The Chinese University of Hong Kong) has now closed down, effective July 31st, 2020. Sad, but true. The former Center Director and former EWC staffperson, Dr. Shive, is now teaching at distance for an institution in Virginia, though he is based in the UK. The Center staff are now unemployed, seeking new opportunities and positions.

I have departed Hong Kong for now, effective July 22nd, and am now based in Central Illinois, at my alma mater, Illinois Wesleyan University.

I hope you and all the EWC friends and colleagues are safe and well.

JAKARTA CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Amin Abdullah

Report submitted by Irid Agoes

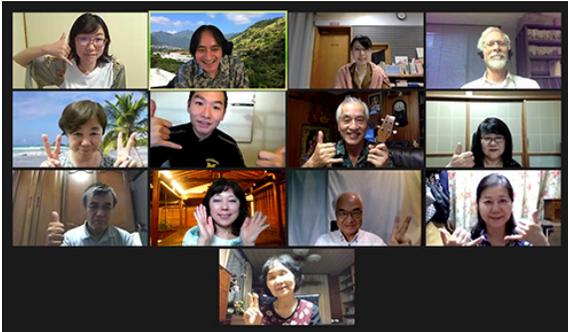


Dr. Amin Abdullah, EWCA Jakarta Chapter president in his capacity as Director for Music Performing Arts and Publishing, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy and Dr. Nasir Tamara, EWC Jefferson Fellow and the president of the Indonesian Writers Guild, SATUPENA, trained 100 writers on 26-27 Sept.

Every month, EWCA Jakarta regularly holds a small online meeting using the free Zoom app, discussing various topics.

KANSAI CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Fumiteru Nitta



The Kansai Chapter held online general and social meetings during the third quarter. On July 11, 2020, a general membership meeting with nine members and one observer from the Tokyo Chapter was held. The main agenda was to confirm the new officers for 2020-2021. The Board members are:

President: Dr. Fumiteru Nitta (1975 CLI; 1979 CI)

Vice-President: Dr. Takashi Mita (GDP 1998-2003)

Accountant: Dr. Yumiko Okamoto (RIS 1985-1989)

Members: Dr. Fred Einar Anderson (Open Grants 1984-1988, 1991-1993; EP 2013) and
Mr. Nobuyuki Tanii (Open Grants 1982-1984)

The general membership meeting was followed by a social meeting attended by thirteen people, including 4 non-members from Tokyo, two from Nagoya, and Hawaii. We started with a toast each of us holding his/her drink. After brief self-introductions, we chatted for a while. Then we divided to smaller groups to get to know each other. Toward the end of socializing, Seiko Furuhashi and myself performed separately. Seiko had prepared a video as her performance required piano accompaniment. She sang two songs in the video while I sang 3 songs with ukulele live. Needless to say, the second part was much more fun and we ran out of the planned time!

As for the COVID19 situation in Japan, it is getting better nationwide. Overall, Japan whose population being the half of the US, has infections of less than 6,000 as of today. The government has recently set up a few projects to reactivate economic activities by the public. One is the second "Go To Travel" campaign which subsidizes up to 70% of travel expenses for travel to and from Tokyo. Many more people than before are expected to travel around Japan. Needless to say, we are reminded that we take precautionary measures such as using masks, keeping social distance, washing hands, etc.

The use of masks is nothing new to Japanese because people have been using them for many years. Most Japanese wear masks in public, such as at grocery and department stores, trains and stations. You even see some unnecessary use of the masks such as a lone person driving a car with a mask on?! Please stay safe and healthy,

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Bill Armbruster

The New York Chapter has not had any events since early March. I hope to have a virtual meeting in October or November.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Barbara Stumph

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

SINGAPORE CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Alice Seok-Hoon Seng



The Singapore Chapter did not meet face to face during the COVID-19 period. Singapore is still under partial lockdown. We are all encouraged to work from home. The senior ladies are busy looking after their grandchildren at home and the working alumni members are busy with e-learning and zooming, also at home.

We managed to have a virtual tea session with a handful of us. It was great fun to see everyone and Glenn managed to invite Amanda Ellis to hear an update of news from Hawai'i.

Warm regards and aloha. Hoping that you are well and safe.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Chapter President: Claire Langham

There is no news from the Southern California Chapter due to the situation with the CoronaVirus — these are challenging times, for our world, our nation, our EWCA So CA Chapter members who are 95% seniors and thus especially vulnerable, and for people close to me personally. Hopefully the situation will improve by 2021 so we can again gather as a chapter.

TAIPEI CHAPTER

Chapter Leader: Gary Lin

Under the meticulous arrangement of and sincere invitation extended by Mr. Robert Cheng-Hsiung Chen, internationally recognized EWC Artist-in-Residence of 1988, and twice awardees of “Lorenzo il Magnifica Lifetime Achievement In Art Awards” in 1999 and 2001, ten (10) EWCA Taiwan Chapter members gathered for a unique and unprecedented “Art Appreciation” event at

his personal gallery in downtown Taipei. The reunion for savoring Mr. Chen's dynamic contemporary artwork is memorable for all.



for the 2021 conference.

The Chen-sponsored "Art Appreciation" was preceded by a formal luncheon Mr. R. Chen graciously hosted in honor of the EWCA Taiwan Chapter members, including former Presidents Kao Yu-jen and Frank Hung. During the luncheon, Gary Lin, the current president of EWCA Taiwan Chapter, reported the postponement of the "EWC/EWCA 60th anniversary International Alumni Conference" to 2021 due to the ravaging COVID-19 outbreak. Gary encouraged all to anticipate and get ready

Convening at the eye-catching gallery, EWCA members were guided by Mr. Chen to tour each chamber of special collections. He was generous enough to unveil the huge piece of artwork "Rhapsodic Blues" to be exhibited in Paris, France in 2021. Meanwhile, Mr. Chen explained in detail the aspiration of creating each piece of artwork. All of us EWC alumni were overwhelmingly impressed by his talents and artistic creativity. Mr. Robert Chen is currently the leading abstract painting artist in Taiwan, and has been acclaimed internationally, particularly in The European Union (EU).