

EWC Media Conference in Hong Kong Attracts More than 300 Journalists



The independence of journalism in China and shifting power relations in Asia were among the key issues stimulating dialogue at the 2010 International Media Conference held in Hong Kong in late April. More than 300 journalists and media experts gathered at the forum titled “Reporting New Realities in Asia and the Pacific,” co-sponsored by the EWC’s Asia Pacific Center for Journalists and The University of Hong Kong’s Journalism and Media Studies Centre (JMSC).

In his address on the first day of the conference, Kurt Campbell, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, called this the “Asia Pacific Century,” adding that America is committed to strengthening ties with the entire region. He emphasized that ASEAN will play an especially important role in future trans-Pacific politics.

Chinese journalist Hu Shuli speaking at the EWC International Media Conference in Hong Kong.



Hu Shuli, veteran Chinese journalist, made her first public remarks since her resignation as editor of *Caijing*, an independent Chinese business magazine known for its critical investigative reporting. Asked whether the news media in China is still an extension of the government due to official censorship, she replied, “The media environment is now very diversified. You can’t take the situation as if there is just one voice. It was maybe the case 30 years ago, but not right now.”

ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan made the case in his keynote presentation, that the ASEAN group of 10 Southeast Asian nations and its partnerships with other Asia Pacific powers —

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including China, Japan, and Korea — can play a leading role in multilateral engagement throughout the region. “In order to help East Asia grow, ASEAN is providing leadership, because we are a threat to none, and a friend to all,” he said.

During the three-day conference, panel discussions and workshops addressed media issues ranging from “Sustainable Media Models in the Internet Age” to “Reporting on Minorities: Indigenous People, Ethnic Minorities and Children,” as well as topics in the news such as “Terrorism and Security in South Asia” and Cross-Strait Relations. “Journalists can give you the best briefing on any city, any region, or any country, because they are out there on the ground reporting the issues every day,” said Susan Kreifels, East-West Center Media Program Coordinator and lead organizer for the conference.

This year’s media conference took full advantage of the latest technology to extend the dialogue to the wider media community online. Along with producing live video feeds, JMSC students covered the conference via twitter and Live blogs with CoverItLive, and an interactive Website with daily highlights.

View video and summaries from the Media Conference at:

ewc50.org/mediaconference2010