In 2011, the East-West Center focused largely on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, not only because APEC Leaders’ Week was hosted in Honolulu, but because the organization’s working agenda so closely matches our own. In fact, the first ideas for an entity resembling APEC were launched at the Center in 1966, and EWC has long given special attention to structures for international cooperation.

Among its activities, the Center provided offices for the APEC Hawai’i Host Committee, conducted educational programs to help inform Americans about their stake in the region; launched APEC-related studies in areas such as energy security and free trade; hosted a preliminary meeting of senior APEC officials; sponsored a successful business symposium during the Leaders’ Week events; helped bring Pacific island leaders to the gathering for the first time ever; and developed an international consortium of K-12 schools in APEC economies.

In 2012, as the United States focuses greater attention toward Asia and the Pacific, the Center will continue to work toward greater international cooperation in the region. We will work on a major new English-teaching partnership in ASEAN countries; continue our human rights and justice projects; hold an international media conference in Seoul and an alumni conference in Beijing; lead election-monitoring teams to Papua New Guinea and Timor L’est; bring young Indian and Pakistani scientists together to work on environmental issues, and a great deal more. Despite current resource constraints, the Center remains a vibrant international hub of intellectual and professional exchange, dedicated to the vigorous pursuit of a peaceful, prosperous Asia Pacific region.
Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, spoke of “Vietnam’s Comprehensive Integration and New Developments in Vietnam-U.S. Relations” in his speech at the Center.  vimeo.com/32293779

The Asia Pacific Business Symposium, cosponsored by the EWC, brought business, government, and academic leaders together with top business experts from the Asia Pacific in Honolulu for the APEC CEO Summit.  vimeo.com/33747256

The EWC’s AsiaPacificEd Program worked with more than 1,400 K-12 students and educators from 48 schools in eight APEC economies (Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and United States) on a series of APEC-related educational projects in the inaugural “Open Channels” online classroom exchange.  AsiaPacificEdCrossings.org

The East-West Center hosted an international symposium, a series of public addresses, and educational initiatives leading up to and during the 2011 APEC Leaders’ Meeting in Honolulu, November 8-13.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke of an American “pivot toward the Asia Pacific” in her third policy address hosted by the East-West Center.  vimeo.com/32425064