Public Engagement

A total of around 1,800 people attended an extensive array of performances, seminars and classes at the second biennial Asia Pacific Dance Festival (below), a collaboration between the EWC Arts Program and the University of Hawai‘i’s Outreach College and Theatre and Dance Department. Performers included traditional and contemporary troupes from Korea, Taiwan, New Zealand and Hawai‘i. outreach.hawaii.edu/community/asiapacific

Other public outreach included a schedule of more than 180 events and seminars throughout the year, including extensive educational outreach to schools in Hawai‘i. EastWestCenter.org/events

In April, Dino Patti Djalal, Indonesia’s Ambassador to the U.S. and a best-selling author on leadership strategies, spoke on his country’s dramatic democratic transition, growing prosperity and expanding role in Asia’s increasing geopolitical influence.

EWC environment researchers Melissa Finucane and Victoria Keener gave a briefing on Capitol Hill in September on the recent Center-lead Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment, which will be included in the federal government’s national assessment. Sen. Brian Schatz, who co-hosted the briefing, said that “In Hawai‘i and throughout the Pacific, climate change is not an abstract concept – it is already having very real consequences.” PacificRISA.org/projects/pirca

The Asian International Justice Initiative’s continuing projects to monitor war crimes tribunals in Bangladesh and Cambodia included a weekly TV program credited with being one of the main ways that Cambodians get information about the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

In Yangon, staff and participants of the Asia Pacific Leadership Program led the Myanmar Futures Exchange conference, bringing together 200 innovative thinkers from diverse sectors to develop and share economic development scenarios. MFE2013.org