

East-West Center International Media Conference “Challenges of a Free Press” Yangon, Myanmar



Message from EWC President Charles E. Morrison and Board Chairman R. Brian Tsujimura



It is sometimes said we are on the threshold of an “Asian century,” but it might be more accurate to say that it will be a global century with an Asia Pacific leadership core. While Asian power is on the rise, world power as a whole is going to more diffusely spread, with no single power as dominant as the United States has been. This means that if global issues are to be effectively addressed, international cooperation becomes all the more essential, and particularly among Asia Pacific countries including China, Japan, India and the United States. In this era, the East-West Center will play critical training and convening roles in helping to develop the international-minded leaders required of our region and also in helping current leaders at all levels of society better address issues of common concern.

In 2014, the Center continued to develop initiatives intended to impact present and future thought leaders in our region. Our year began with the East-West Philanthropists Summit bringing together leading philanthropists from China and the U.S. to learn from each other’s experiences and concerns. In March, the International Media Conference in Yangon brought together more than 500 media professionals from 31 countries to discuss and promote press freedom in a way previously impossible in Burma. The Center was honored in July when Secretary of State John Kerry visited to deliver his first major policy speech on U.S. engagement in the region. Pacific island youth leaders converged in Samoa for the second ‘Future Leaders of the Pacific’ conference; the Brunei-U.S. English Language Enrichment Project for ASEAN advanced into a new phase of teaching apprenticeships; and among our research activities, EWC hosted a series of expert dialogues focusing on key issues of North Pacific economic cooperation.

The dream we share of a better, safer world requires us to work together as we navigate toward a future of regional leadership for a world community.



Events connected with the **2014 International Media Conference in Myanmar** included major addresses from both Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and Minister of Information U Ye Htut. Attendees were struck by the frankness of the discussions among participants from all sides of the Myanmar media spectrum, from government representatives to journalists who had been imprisoned or banned during the years of military rule. ♦ EastWestCenter.org/imc2014

Highlight: Media Programs

The Center continued to break new ground in 2014 with its seminar programs for journalists, including the fourth biennial EWC International Media Conference held in Yangon, Myanmar, in March. More than 500 media professionals from 31 countries attended the conference in the emerging nation that until just a few years ago had some of the most repressive media controls in the world. Also during the year, EWC media programs conducted a workshop in Seoul on reporting on human rights issues and a reunion conference of Pakistani media alumni in Islamabad that addressed issues of youth at risk in the country. ♦ EastWestCenter.org/journalismfellowships



In July, EWC invited participants from NGOs and media in South Korea and other Asian nations to a **three-day training program on accurately reporting human rights issues**. The discussions focused on ethics and techniques for developing credible human rights reports. ♦ EastWestCenter.org/Zk5



Pakistani journalists from across the country gathered in October to reflect on the future of media in Pakistan at an alumni conference for EWC's **Deepening Democracy through Media in Pakistan** project. With support from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the four-year project was designed to promote free and fair media and to help bridge gaps in understanding between the U.S. and Pakistan. ♦ EastWestCenter.org/ZkS