In August, **U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry** delivered a policy speech at EWC in which he outlined what he termed the United States’ “ambitious agenda” of long-term engagement in Asia and the Pacific. “We know that America’s security and prosperity are closely and increasingly linked to the Asia Pacific,” Kerry said, adding that “President Obama and I strongly support your (East-West Center) mission of bringing people together to think creatively about the future of our role in the region.”

More than 300 EWC alumni, friends and colleagues from 20 countries gathered at the 2014 EWC/EWCA International Conference in Naha, Okinawa Sept. 17–19. The conference program on the theme of “Developing a Peaceful and Sustainable Asia Pacific Community” featured more than 100 presenters on a range of key regional topics, as well as a special luncheon honoring EWC’s 2014 distinguished alumni and volunteers.

**EWCSeniorFellow Andrew Mason** co-directed a global study — published in the leading journal *Science* — which found that in much of the world, a moderately low birth rate can actually boost a country’s overall standard of living.

As part of EWC’s ongoing emphasis on women’s leadership programs, female entrepreneurs and executives from 12 Asia Pacific countries visited Hawai’i in July for EWC’s 2014 **Changing Faces Women’s Leadership Seminar** presented in partnership with UH Mānoa’s Shidler College of Business. Paired with local host-mentors, participants exchanged ideas with a variety of women leaders and students.

**Pacific Islands Development Program Co-Director Gerard Finin** led the U.S. delegation of a **multinational mission to observe Fiji’s national election** in September — its first since a military coup in 2006. After the election, Finin wrote that coup leader Voreqe Bainimarama’s “mandate to lead Fiji now represents a choice freely made by the electorate,” but it is also just “one important step to a more robust democratic society.”

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In the fall, the Brunei-U.S. English Language Enrichment Project for ASEAN entered a new phase, with 18 participants selected for the program’s first cohort of English teaching apprenticeships, including a 10-month teaching placement in primary schools in Cambodia and Laos. ✨EastWestCenter.org/Zkg

Youth leaders from 18 Pacific nations converged in Samoa in August for the second “Future Leaders of the Pacific” conference, organized by the U.S. embassies in New Zealand and Samoa in partnership with the EWC, and held in connection with the UN’s International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The youth delegates met with several of the region’s top dignitaries to discuss key regional issues. ✨EastWestCenter.org/Zkx

At an event on Capitol Hill in April, the US-ASEAN Business Council and the East-West Center launched a new “ASEAN Matters for America” publication and online tool that outlines economic and cultural relationships between ASEAN and the United States. Several lawmakers spoke at the launch event, which also included a discussion panel. ✨ASEANmattersforAmerica.org

1,100 mentions in news reports by 850 media outlets.