



Message from EWC President Charles E. Morrison and Interim Board Chairman Richard Turbin



By virtue of its congressional charter, public diplomacy mission, broad regional focus and flexible structure, the East-West Center has a proud 55-year legacy as an agenda-setter, convener and network builder in the Asia Pacific region. At the individual level through educational and professional exchange programs, the Center aims to enhance participants' knowledge, skill sets and leadership capabilities. At the same time, our research and outreach programs strengthen capacity for the people and nations of the Asia Pacific to better understand and address critical issues of mutual concern.

The congressional language establishing EWC in 1960 called for collaborative activities, and the Center has long concentrated on its institutional partnerships, including more than a thousand in 2015. In recent years, much of the Center's work has focused on building a sense of Asia Pacific community and supporting regional frameworks that facilitate cooperation. A vigorous suite of programming addresses pressing challenges such as climate change, social justice, education, economic

development and international security. The range of EWC activities in 2015 included, among many others:

- Publication of more than 75 books, studies and policy briefs.
- Expansion of the *Asia Matters for America* initiative tracking U.S.-Asia interactions.
- Engagement with more than 3,000 total participants, including 470 student fellows along with more than 500 seminar attendees in Washington and 2,000 other participants in Hawai'i and elsewhere.
- Nine journalist exchange programs, along with 31 student and teacher exchanges.
- Upwards of 60 public seminars and events in Hawai'i and 23 in Washington, in addition to numerous workshops and research meetings throughout the region.
- The second East-West Philanthropy Summit held in January, and the November launch of the China Global Philanthropy Institute by Bill Gates and others in Beijing.

In the fall, the Center celebrated its 55th anniversary by honoring Nainoa Thompson, who has led the re-emergence of traditional Polynesian navigation, with the Center's Asia Pacific Community Building Award. Nainoa's vision serves as an inspirational reminder of the importance of coming together as nations and individuals if we are to successfully navigate toward a peaceful, prosperous future for the region and the world.

EWC's president and board chair presented navigator Nainoa Thompson with the Center's **Asia Pacific Community Building Award**. "If you're building an Asia Pacific community, the inspiration comes from an Asia Pacific community, and that's what we are in Hawai'i," President Morrison said. "There are a lot of inspiring examples here in the Islands, and we're honoring one of the most inspirational tonight."



EWC Celebrates 55 Years

At a gala 55th anniversary celebration in September, EWC honored master traditional Polynesian navigator **Nainoa Thompson** with the Center's *Asia Pacific Community Building Award*, which recognizes outstanding leaders whose vision and accomplishments exemplify the mission of the East-West Center. Accepting the award "in all humility," Thompson, who heads the Polynesian Voyaging Society and has worked closely with EWC's leadership programs, said: "To me, the East-West Center is a pu'u honua (place of refuge) ... a place of hope, with a fundamental belief that you can bring people together around the Pacific and find that hope of peace." ♦ EastWestCenter.org/Z4a



Emceed by EWC Foundation Board member and PBS Hawaii CEO **Leslie Wilcox**, the "International Affairs" gala drew more than 500 friends and supporters of the Center. As is customary at the event, EWC participants in national dress mingled with guests and shared highlights of their East-West Center experience.

