

# Message from EWC President Richard R. Vuylsteke



It is my great pleasure to introduce the East-West Center's Annual Report for 2016. This past year was an exceptional one for the Center, featuring major conferences in

Manila and New Delhi, as well as a cluster of high-profile events surrounding the landmark IUCN World Conservation

Congress in Honolulu, including the first speech at the Center by a sitting U.S. president in more than 40 years. This report highlights a few of the year's major activities, and much more is available via the web links provided.

Today, we stand at a time of extraordinary political and social change around the world. Throughout its history, the East-West Center has embraced and adapted to such changing times, providing the expertise and context needed to

## MEETINGS

### Alumni Mingle in Manila

More than 300 EWC alumni, friends and colleagues from 22 countries gathered in Manila for the **2016 EWC/EWCA International Conference** in January on the theme of "Bridging Diverse Cultures towards an Inclusive Asia Pacific Community." In his keynote address, then-Philippines President Benigno S. Aquino III (pictured below) told conference participants "the East-West Center's devotion to strengthening the links that bind the two sides of the vast Pacific has enabled thousands of academics, policymakers, analysts and public servants to share ideas and best practices towards the benefit of so many." ♦ [EastWestCenter.org/ZJf](http://EastWestCenter.org/ZJf)



better understand new realities, and helping to educate and train the coming generations of young leaders who will be driving the future. While honoring the Center's longstanding legacy of excellence, we seek to move ahead continually as a forward-looking 21st century institution.

The East-West Center today is a very different place from when I was a graduate student here in the 1970s and '80s, but its core mission has remained unchanged: bringing people from varied nations and

cultures together to help build cooperation and understanding in an ever-more interconnected world. With that worthy goal continuing to inform our efforts, I look forward to meeting the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in partnership with the extraordinary community of participants, staff, alumni and supporters who have made the East-West Center such a special place for more than half a century.

## OF THE MIND



### Journalists Network in New Delhi

In September, some 350 international journalists and media professionals from more than 40 countries met in India's capital for EWC's **5th International Media Conference**, on the theme of "South Asia Looking East." Keynote speakers included Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar and Nobel Peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi (lower left), who gave an inspirational address about his global efforts to rescue children from forced labor. Participants also went on a variety of study tours, including diverse religious sites, a homeless children's shelter and an innovative women's prison. ♦ [EastWestCenter.org/imc2016](http://EastWestCenter.org/imc2016)