

# EWCA Chapter Reports



## **EWCA Quarterly Chapter Report Submissions**

Quarter 3, 2023

The following reports have been submitted by the Chapter Leaders and/or Liaisons of the EWCA Chapters. Reports from the chapters are requested each quarter. A summary of each report will be shared by VP for Chapters, Vannary Kong-Bui with the EWCA Executive Board at their quarterly meeting, as well as Chapter Leaders and Liaisons of all the EWCA Chapters. Part or all of your report (including photos) may be posted to the Office of Alumni Engagement website, Facebook, and/or LinkedIn accounts.

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# EWCA Chapter Reports



## Aceh Chapter Report

Submitted by: Ari Palawi, Chapter Leader

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

We are still reconciling each other alumni of EWC and UHM in Aceh. I would need some time to manage a gathering among alumni and start reorganizing the chapter and adopt the current guidance that was made in the last international chapters meeting.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Developing and Equipping Leaders

I am sure the developing and equipping leaders is the correct choice in the situation in Aceh, Sumatera, Indonesia. We are concerned about the Adat (local customs), Nature, Religion and the Arts, Science and Technology for the future Acehnese. So, the quality among leaderships in all sectors is significant. I also established a public space for any cultural activities in the site.

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## ASDP Chapter Report

Submitted by: Matthew Ruane, Chapter Leader

### **Summary of Chapter Activities:**

Largely our activities have been involved in monthly board meetings in preparation for the [annual conference](#) to be held in March 2024.

### **Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)**

Developing and Equipping Leaders

Convening Impactful Dialogues

Fostering Environmental Solutions

Supporting Good Governance

An academic conference with more than 150 participants in the Boston area, with participation from local colleges and universities, along with national and international attendees, discussing a variety of educational topics including current research into issues effecting South, Southeast and East Asia will be presented at the conference.

We expect to have a larger presence of graduate students, the next generation of intellectual leaders, participating due to the number of colleges and universities in the Boston area. These graduate student participants and presenters are the ones fostering the next generation of impactful dialogues, helping to foster environmental solutions through their proposals, all developing and equipping leaders who support good governance by discussing issues of past and present concern to the above regions.

## Beijing Chapter Report

Submitted by: Ying Chen, Communications Liaison

### **Summary of Chapter Activities:**

Jeff Lau visited Beijing and had a great talk and dinner with EWC alums from the Beijing Chapter. Thanks to the excellent facilitation work done by Ms. Yuan Shang, alums got together and watched the greetings from President Suzanne Vares-Lum. Another highlight of the event is that the team of the Office of Alumni Engagement, chaired by Christina Monroe, kindly sent gifts and greetings to Ms. Hongxia Zhang, former Beijing Chapter Liaison.

Ms. Bingxin Leng, the Asia Pacific Leadership Fellow this year, went back to Shanghai from Hawai'i. She brought gifts and kind greetings from Hawai'i to friends in China.

Check out the [Beijing Chapter's Padlet](#) for more information.

### **Future Chapter Activities:**

Ms. Ying Chen, the current coordinator of Global Awards and Academic Affairs at New York University Shanghai, is organizing an event connecting Graduate Degree Fellow and Asia Pacific Leadership Fellows. The information session will be conducted in a hybrid mode. Sadichchha Shrestha, NYU Shanghai and GDF fellow, will be invited to join online. Dr. Yue Cui will give a video greeting, and Bingxin Leng and Kiko He will participate in person as panelists.

### **Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)**

Partnering with the Pacific

Convening Impactful Dialogues

The events this summer and fall highlight the theme of re-reconvening. Sincere sharing among people and groups is the best way to connect after a long period of COVID-19. We are delighted to see that alums would love to contribute their time and energy to these events and bring guests from afar together.



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## California Chapter Report

Submitted by: Inge Maranto, Chapter Leader

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

In August, nine of us made an onsite visit to the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, downtown Los Angeles. We had two purposes: to tour the facility and to support one of our alumni as she and her daughter documented the participation of the 14 family members who were incarcerated/ jailed in the relocation camps during WWII.

In September we had 2 small luncheon Gatherings. Three of us met for Taiwanese food in Arcadia and five alumni met for Vietnamese food in Fountain Valley.

In September we had a Zoom meeting with 17 alumni participating and 8 additional alumni communicating via email and phone calls (Anil Bhargava, Matt Goldberg, Gary and Bach-Mai Larsen, Curtis Smith, Selma Sonntag, Barbara Bornet Stumph, Sushma Trehan). The various activities of California alumni were highlighted: travel, conference participation, new book published, community service and future opportunities.

### Future Chapter Activities:

Anil Bhargava is organizing participation by alumni related to the upcoming APEC Conference in San Francisco and a private Gathering in San Francisco.

There are plans for another actual Gathering in November in southern California at either the home of Jay & Geeta Brara or Ron & Dorothy Jackson.

The next Zoom Meeting will be in January 2024.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Developing and Equipping Leaders

Convening Impactful Dialogues

Fostering Environmental Solutions

Developing & equipping leaders: We are making aware the efforts of EWCA Chapter members within a local non-profit (Saahas) and health clinics and offering to help promote their services by raising awareness of their services.

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Convening impactful dialogues: One member Anil Bhargava is leading the effort to have EWCA California Chapter and EWC HQ increase visibility regionally and globally by participating in the upcoming APEC Conference in San Francisco and encouraging alumni to attend the conference. He is also trying to organize a gathering in the San Francisco area before the end of the year.

Fostering environmental solutions: One member Arvinder Brara for our Zoom meeting proposed a discussion topic on how to make an impact on climate change for the September Zoom meeting, even provided a detailed pledge document for individuals to sign online as to how, as individuals, we can make a difference in various areas. Added was the topic of how to reduce pollution, keeping in mind how small daily behaviors and practices can help the health of our communities significantly.

## Images to Share:





## Chennai Chapter Report

Submitted by: Dr. S Rajamani, Communication Liaison

### **Summary of Chapter Activities:**

EWCA Chennai Chapter in cooperation with Rotary Club organized a series of programs on “Intercultural Competency for Peace Building (ICCPB)” during September 2023. The programs were well organized by our EWCA Chennai Chapter Program Coordinator Dr. Vasanthi Ranganathan. Dr. S. Rajamani was the Chief Guest and Ms. Ashima Kaul, EWC Alumina from New Delhi a Renowned Speaker made a virtual presentation.

On September 26th, 2023, a meeting was held at Madras Boat Club, Adyar, Chennai, India. The meeting started with welcome address by Mr. P. M. Belliappa, President, EWCA Chennai Chapter. Mr. P. M. Belliappa a Dynamic Administrator and an extraordinary Civil Service Cadet personal of Govt. of India has established the EWCA Chennai Chapter during the year 2000. He also made a special welcome to Mr. Scott Hartmann, Cultural Affairs Officer, US Consulate General, Chennai for his participation along with Ms. Chitra Jaishankar, Alumni Coordinator from US Consulate General, Chennai.

The participants made a self-introduction and their association with East West Center (EWC), Hawai‘i. Mr. Scott Hartmann who is familiar with the activities of EWC - EWCA, Hawai‘i, explained the programs of cultural wing and how US Consulate can further extend their support for the activities of EWCA Chennai Chapter. Ms. Chitra Jaishankar, a regular participant in the activities of Chennai Chapter, explained the facilities and role of Alumni wing of US Consulate General. She has given a brief on the ongoing program in association with Ms. Shreya Singh of EWCA Chennai Chapter.

Mr. P. M. Belliappa, President thanked all the members, US Consulate and other institutions for their support and cooperation during the past 20 years. He proposed the name of Dr. S. Rajamani for taking over the position of President of EWCA Chennai Chapter. It has been unanimously agreed by the members to the proposal of naming Dr. S. Rajamani as the President and the chapter members requested to Mr. P. M. Belliappa to be the President Emeritus.

The Chapter members suggested the name of Dr. B. Subramaniam, one of the young members of EWCA Chennai Chapter as the Secretary. Dr. Vasanthi Ranganathan will continue as the Program Coordinator.

### **Future Chapter Activities:**

The future programs in cooperation with EWCA Mumbai Chapter and other organizations in the coming period were presented in the meeting.



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## **Message of Condolences:**

The EWCA Chennai Chapter members as well as Ms. Christina Monroe, Ms. Karen Knudsen and Ms. Noreen Tanouye - EWC/EWCA, Hawai'i conveyed their heartfelt condolence to the braved family of Mr. Subramaniam, who was the Secretary, Vice President who passed away on 27th September 2023 in Chennai.

Mr. Panchapakesan “Mani” Subramaniam (Population, 1992) passed away in September of 2023. Mr. Subramaniam was the Secretary, Vice President, and founding member of the East-West Center Association Chennai Chapter. He was also the former Director of the Centre for Development Research and Training in Chennai, India, where he grew up. Mr. Subramaniam worked as consultant to The World Bank (Public Health, Nutrition and Population Division), New Delhi and former Director of the DANIDA Health Care Project, Government of Tamilnadu. Mr. Subramaniam became an alumnus of the East-West Center after his completion of the Methods of Multivariate Analysis Workshop in 1992. He co-wrote a translation of "India's Environment" which won the Best Book Award from the Tamil University, Thanjavur in 1986. He is remembered by his wife, Ms. Anusuya Subramaniam, Mr. Venkat Subramaniam and other family and the members of the EWCA Chennai Chapter.



**Mr. Panchapakesan “Mani” Subramaniam  
1926 – 2023**

# EWCA Chapter Reports



## Hawai 'i Chapter Report

Submitted by: Carl Hefner, Chapter Leader

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

On Saturday, Aug 19, 2023, our Hawaii Chapter hosted nearly 200 people including incoming one of the largest groups of East-West Center students along with EWC alumni at our annual EWCA Hawaii Chapter/CBI picnic in Kapiolani Park. EWC alumni prepare BBQ picnic style food for the students, in cooperation with members of the CBI committee & EWCPA. We also provided a talk on the history of Kapiolani Park, the glory of the iconic Diamond Head and a short ecology of Waikiki for the students. Each year this proves to be an excellent way to network with students who will be future alumni of the East- West Center. Students are bussed in, enjoy BBQ foods, play sports, and socialize in a relaxing atmosphere. This is a great event we look forward to each year, and the event is a fine opportunity to engage in social interaction with EWC alumni.

### Future Chapter Activities:

We will continue to plan activities that involve EWC students and alumni. We intend to support and help plan the upcoming EWC International Conference in 2025.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Developing and Equipping Leaders

Convening Impactful Dialogues

Fostering Environmental Solutions

Partnering with the Pacific

Our events help to support and mentor incoming and current EWC students and therefore we are always conscious that we are developing and equipping future leaders. Numerous Pacific Island students also attend our events, and our guest speakers make an effort to describe, explain, and foster environmental concerns and solutions.



# EWCA Chapter Reports



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## Kansai Chapter Report

Submitted by: Fumi Nitta, Chapter Leader

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

On 7/31 we had a Chapter Board Meeting by zoom. The topics discussed were as follows:

1. Succeeding Leader position: The Leader-elect, Takashi Mita raised questions regarding the continuation of the Chapter by pointing out:
  - a. Our Chapter's functions for welcoming and sending off grantees are not working as there are very few grantees these days.
  - b. There is no need for regional reunion groups because of zoom availability.
  - c. As for merging with Tokyo Chapter or Chubu-Nagoya Chapter, there may be opposition by Tokyo, and things may not change with merging with Chubu-Nagoya.
2. Introduced Travis Seifman as a new chapter member. He has moved from Tokyo to work in Kyoto.

On 8/30 we had a Chapter Board Meeting by zoom. We had a follow-up discussion on the Chapter's future. As the previous meeting on 7/31, several board members reiterated opinions against the continuation of the Kansai Chapter. Chapter Leader, however, expressed his hope for keeping the Chapter going by some ways, for example by merging with Tokyo Chapter. Toru Yamada, an observer and Leader of Tokyo Chapter, expressed a positive response by saying he would discuss the matter at their board meeting. In summary, there is a hope to keep Kansai Chapter as part of Tokyo Chapter.

### Future Chapter Activities:

We will have another board meeting in October or November to continue the previous discussion: how to go about merging with Tokyo Chapter. Mamoru Tsukada, Leader of Chubu-Nagoya Chapter, has also agreed with the idea.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Convening Impactful Dialogues
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# EWCA Chapter Reports



## Karachi Chapter Report

Submitted by: Ghazala Fasih, Communication Liaison

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

The Karachi chapter had a meet-up on 12-8-23. It was to discuss future chapter activities and planning in line with the new Foundational Strategic Plan of EWC. The meeting was attended by the president, Mr. Aamir Latif, senior member Mr. Farooq Moen, member Ms. Saima Huma and communication liaison, Ghazala Fasih. The participants agreed to have the elections in the next months and chalked out a plan for it. Members discussed the strategy to motivate the alumnae to actively participate in the chapter activities.

It was also decided to write to OAE to get an updated list of Alumni from Pakistan. This meeting was also to welcome our alumna Saima Huma (Asia Pacific -Leadership Program 2002- 2003) who resides in Saudi Arabia and came to Pakistan for a short visit. She visited the EWC office in February this year. She excitedly shared her experience in the following words " My recent trip to Hawai'i was like a walk down memory lane after 20 years. It all started when I was having a conversation with my friends, and we decided to meet. The whole process itself reminded us of the time when we used to plan trips to neighboring islands. After figuring out everyone's schedules, family commitments, and other priorities, we settled on February 2023. We were all super excited to see each other because it had been almost 20 years since we last got together, and some of us had even met in different parts of the world. I was welcomed by my very first friend who was also a recipient of the East-West Centre scholarship, and we stayed at Lincon Hall. My friends joined me after a day.

"We got an invite from Christina Monroe, the Director of Alumni Engagement, and visited Hale Manoa, Burns Hall, our classrooms, and met Ms. Suzanne Vares-Lum, the President. We shared stories about our time at EWC, thankful for the chance to meet people from different places and how our friendships have stayed strong."

It was a reminder of how the East-West Center program brought all the diverse groups together and bonded them into one community. The friendships we made had a lasting impact. The meeting ended on a pleasant note with everyone remembering and sharing their experiences in Hawai'i.

### Future Chapter Activities:

Alumni election to be held.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Developing and Equipping Leaders

Convening Impactful Dialogues

# EWCA Chapter Reports



Fostering Environmental Solutions

Supporting Good Governance

The chapter's activities focus on convening an impactful dialogue among different segments of society to create peace and harmony, fostering environmental solutions and sensitizing the community about marginalized groups including women and religious minorities.

## Images to Share:



# EWCA Chapter Reports



## Latin America Chapter Report

Submitted by: Michelle Taminato, Chapter Leader

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

We had a meeting with APLP alumni in Brazil for the event celebrating 115 years of Okinawa Immigration. We were joined by representatives of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Association (WUB), creators of the scholarship for Okinawan descendants in Latin America and Okinawan undergraduate and graduate students.

Alumni from Brazil, Okinawa, and Peru took part.

### Future Chapter Activities:

We are designing some possibilities for empowering young alumni in Latin America by structuring initiatives with the WUB mentors in Hawaii.

Establishing a calendar of online meetings in 2024 to present EWC alumni from Latin America.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Developing and Equipping Leaders

Convening Impactful Dialogues

The strategic pillars of "Developing and equipping leaders" and "Conveying impact dialogues" are highly relevant to the activities we are planning to empower our alumni in Latin America by structuring initiatives with WUB mentors in Hawaii and establishing a calendar of online meetings in 2024. Here's how they relate:

#### Developing and Equipping Leaders:

Your initiative to empower Uchinanchu alumni involves mentorship and structured initiatives. This aligns with the goal of developing and equipping leaders by providing them with guidance, mentorship, and opportunities for growth and skill development.

#### Conveying Impact Dialogues:

The calendar of online meetings in 2024 serves as a platform for alumni to share their experiences and the impact of their work. These meetings facilitate impact dialogues by allowing alumni to discuss their achievements, challenges, and the broader societal impact of their activities and trend topics that are needed to be reflected upon.



# EWCA Chapter Reports



## Structured Initiatives with WUB Mentors:

Collaborating with WUB mentors from Hawaii adds an element of mentorship and knowledge transfer. This not only equips young alumni with valuable insights and skills but also fosters cross-cultural and international dialogue, contributing to a broader understanding of global issues.

## Calendar of Online Meetings:

The online meetings scheduled for 2024 provide a structured forum for alumni to engage in dialogue, exchange ideas, and showcase their impact. This aligns with the goal of conveying impact dialogues by creating a space for alumni to discuss and communicate the meaningful changes they've initiated in their communities.

## Images to Share:



# EWCA Chapter Reports



## **New York (Greater Area) Chapter Report**

Submitted by: Bill Armbruster, Chapter Leader

### **Summary of Chapter Activities:**

We had a dinner at Best Sichuan in midtown Manhattan on Thursday, Sept. 21. About 21 people attended. Our guest speaker was Amanda Ellis, immediate past president of the EWCA. Amanda's topics included the EWC's strategic priorities and the climate crisis. Other guests included three recent APLP alumni - Marianne Gilchrist of New Zealand, Anusha Bharadwaj of India and Thinley Choden. Like Amanda, they were all in New York for meetings related to the opening of the UN General Assembly that week. Although our turnout was relatively small, the attendees represented six decades of EWC alumni!

### **Future Chapter Activities:**

Nothing planned as of now for the fourth quarter. If, however, anyone from the Center will be in the New York area, we'd be delighted to get together.

### **Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)**

Fostering Environmental Solutions

Convening Impactful Dialogues

Climate change is an existential crisis facing humanity, so it's always good to have discussions about it. We were pleased to hear that Amanda described herself as a "radical optimist" about humanity's prospect for success in facing this crisis.

### **Images to Share:**



# EWCA Chapter Reports



## Philippines Chapter Report

Submitted by: Pauline Bautista, Communication Liaison

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

2023 EWCAAP Homecoming.

### Future Chapter Activities:

2024 EWC IMC Conference.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Convening Impactful Dialogues

All EWCAAP members have impactful posts in various government, business, academic and civil society, and providing a venue for person-to-person interaction is vital.

### Images to Share:





## Seoul Chapter Report

Submitted by: Kwangsuck Lee, Chapter Leader

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

1. Dr. Kilsang Yoo (Economics, 1985-88) inaugurated as the 10th President of Korea University of Technology and Education.
2. Dr. Jeong Taik Lee (Sociology, 1983-87) participated in the KJEC ([www.kjecprograms.com](http://www.kjecprograms.com)) program by delivering an on-line lecture to high school & university students both from Japan and Republic of Korea on 22nd July. The theme of the program was “Think globally, Act locally.”
3. Chan Namkoong (Asian Theatre, 2001-03) participated in an online EWCA Chapter Leadership Meeting on August 4, 2023 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM Hawaii Standard Time. The theme of the workshop was “Building A Successful EWCA Chapter”.
4. Dr. Choong Yong Ahn (Applied and Resource Economics, 1966-68) published a book entitled South Korea and Foreign Direct Investment: Policy Dynamics and the Aftercare Ombudsman (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, August 14, 2023). This book examines Korea’s foreign direct investment policy dynamics and points out the importance of mutual synergy between multinational corporations and their host countries in a win-win framework and the increasing importance of this in a post-pandemic world. Dr. Ahn is a distinguished professor at the Graduate School of International Studies at Chug-Ang University in Seoul.
5. 2nd Steering meeting was held on 19th September:

#### Agenda:

1. Reception of the EWC President during her visit to Seoul in October.
2. Revision of Bylaws of EWCA Korea Chapter.
3. Annual meeting schedule of EWCA Korea Chapter.

### Future Chapter Activities:

Annual meeting of EWCA Korea Chapter.



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## Tokyo Chapter Report

Submitted by: Toru Yamada, Chapter Leader

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

1. Hosted the high school students from South Korea and Japan with Mathew Goldberg (EWC Alumni, Korea/California) on July 22 (online) and 26 (in-person in Tokyo).
2. Chapter members, Hitomi Yokote and Heyon Ju Lee gave their talks to the students on July 22 on their experiences at EWC.
3. Toru observed the EWCA Kansai chapter meeting on Aug. 22.
4. Toru visited Dr. Truong Quang Tam of EWCA Vietnam chapter exchanged ideas on educational collaborations.

### Future Chapter Activities:

The 2nd Board meeting will be held on October 20.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Fostering Environmental Solutions

Convening Impactful Dialogues

Developing and Equipping Leaders

Supporting Good Governance

During this quarter, the members of Tokyo Chapter had three activities with other chapters (Korea, Vietnam, and Kansai), on educational, leadership, and environmental issues.

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# EWCA Chapter Reports



## Ulaanbaatar Chapter Report

Submitted by: Gana Purevjav, Chapter Leader

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

Mr. Richard Buangan, US Ambassador to Mongolia invited EWC UB Chapter Leader Ms. Gana Purevjav along with local alumni at his residence. Mr. John Brown was present at the event. The UB Chapter leader shared its news such as what they have done and what we are planning to do. Mr. Ambassador was impressed with their success stories and future plans.

### Future Chapter Activities:

We will implement our plan according to our 5-year strategic plan which was designed based on the 5 EWC's five strategic pillars.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars:](#)

Partnering with the Pacific Islands

Convening Impactful Dialogues

Developing and Equipping Leaders

### Images to Share:



# EWCA Chapter Reports



## Vietnam Chapter Report

Submitted by: Tam Truong Quang, Ho Chi Minh Area Liaison

### Summary of Chapter Activities:

Creating a network with 41 members to share experiences and information by using the local phone network, Zalo.

Met with Dr. Yamada, head of Tokyo Chapter on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for sharing ideas and information experiences in chapter works.

### Future Chapter Activities:

Looking for a new Chapter Leader.

### Focus on [EWC Strategic Pillars](#):

Developing and Equipping Leaders

Convening Impactful Dialogues

Fostering Environmental Solutions

Supporting Good Governance

### Images to Share:

