



EAST-WEST CENTER

Building an Asia Pacific Community

Observer

Beijing Speeds Up Modernization as It Readies for 2008 Summer Olympics

With the Beijing Olympics two years away, preparations in China are well underway to host the Summer Games in 2008. “Beijing looks more poised than ever to speed up its modernization and integration into the international community, to make new friends and to expand the scope of its cooperation with the rest of the world,” Wei Wang, executive vice president and secretary general of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, told an audience at the East-West Center on May 25.

Wang spoke at a public program during the three-day Asia Pacific Sports Seminar, co-sponsored by the East-West Center and Sports Marketing Japan at the Center in Honolulu. “Green Olympics, High-Tech Olympics and People’s Olympics are the three concepts of the Beijing Olympic Games,” he said, in his discussion of how Beijing and China are taking the opportunity to build on the upcoming Olympics.

The Summer Games will feature 28 sports, including 302 events. Among the 37 venues planned, 31 are in Beijing, Wang said. Construction is in full swing for 11 new venues, including a National Stadium, National Convention Center and Olympic Village. Existing venues are being expanded and temporary

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The East-West Center and Sports Marketing Japan sponsored a 3-day seminar on Asia Pacific Sports.



Ronen Sen, India's Ambassador to the U.S.

Indian Ambassador: India-U.S. Strategic Partnership Makes World Safer Place

Ronen Sen, India’s ambassador to the United States, stressed that the recent U.S.-India Nuclear Agreement reached during President George W. Bush’s visit to New Delhi in March, affirms positive policy changes beyond the nuclear concerns that received most of the media attention. “The partnership has brought tangible benefits to both countries across a wide spectrum of activities,” Sen said. “We have entered into a new framework of cooperation.”

The ambassador made his remarks during a speech at the East-West Center in mid-March, soon after the agreement was announced. Sen said the only people surprised by the nuclear agreement were those still “trapped in a mindset of the past.”

He suggested the new mindset should be one of optimism. Much of that optimism is due to dramatic changes in foreign policy, especially in the past year between the U.S. and India, he said.

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Wei Wang, Executive VP and Secretary General of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic games.

Beijing Readies for 2008 Summer Olympics

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ones being built. "Their state-of-the-art designs, coupled with new technologies and materials, will in the long run be a precious legacy to the city's future development."

Beijing is also improving its network of transportation, with new projects under construction for expressways, light-rail transit and subways, he said. By 2008, he projected six more highways will be added to the current infrastructure, "to ensure easy and quick access to the venues."

Service industries, star-rated hotel accommodations and cultural facilities such as libraries and museums are also being developed. A "city-wide action plan," including TV programs, is in place to educate citizens about becoming "good hosts, enlightened and disciplined sports fans and to better understand the rules of the Olympic sports and appreciate the skills and aspirations of the athletes," he added.

Wang estimated that 60,000 to 70,000 volunteers will be enlisted for the Beijing Olympic Games. Already students from senior high schools and universities are being recruited and in August efforts will begin to recruit from the general public.

As a prelude to the Games, 40 trial events will be held, beginning with this year's International Softball Federation Women's World Championships and an International Sailing Regatta.

Wang acknowledged concerns about air pollution in Beijing, noting that environmental protection has been one of the top priorities for the Beijing Municipality as the city readies for the Olympics. "Half of the city is now covered in green, fulfilling the target set for 2008 two years in advance," he said, noting that last year "the days with blue sky" accounted for some 64% of the total days of the year, more than 15% higher than that of 2000.

To upgrade the city's air quality and create a better ecological environment for the Olympic Games, he said efforts are being made to control construction dust, transport dust, car emission and coal-burning pollution.

This year the Beijing Olympics Committee will also shift its focus from planning to venue operation, he said. As part of the process, the committee is "welcoming suggestions and seeking experience and expertise from offshore firms and foreign experts, who already and will continue to serve important roles and provide key services" in a range of areas including but not limited to technology, Olympic Village management, ticketing, public relations and language services.

Noting the 2008 Olympics' theme of "One World, One Dream," Wang said, "The Beijing Olympic Games will be a magnificent gala to embody the aspirations of the Chinese people and the people of the world for peace, development and progress."

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India-U.S. Strategic Partnership Makes World Safer Place

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"The radical nature of the transformation of this relationship into a strategic partnership and the role of this relationship" and its influence globally had not been recognized by observers before the meeting of Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Sen said. That is why there was "some element of surprise" when announcements were made during the Bush visit, including the U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement.

Sen characterized Bush's trip to India and its outcome as a fundamental reaffirmation of this new bilateral relationship. Developments in the past year have shown that the strengthening of the strategic partnership is "good for both our countries" he said, "and so contributing to making the world more stable and secure."

"The recent civil nuclear agreement was an important manifestation both in terms of substance and symbolism," he added. The ambassador also enumerated several areas in which the two nations will benefit from closer cooperation, including joint military exercises, cyber security, atomic energy, aerospace, technology and increased trade and exports.

Sen estimated that trade, which now totals \$40 billion a year, should double in the next few years. "U.S. exports to India are growing much faster than India's exports to the United States," he said.

In addressing the subject of outsourcing, Sen noted that the value of goods and services purchased by India from the United States far outpaced the economic value of some American jobs going to his country.

In response to a question from the audience, he said, "Neither the United States or India sees our strategic partnership as aimed or directed against any third country, including China.

"Both of us have a vested interest in seeing a smooth transition in China because this contributes to global stability. And we do not like to talk in terms of India vs. China or India or China, but rather India and China because I think the world is big enough to accommodate the greatness of both countries."



EWC President Charles E. Morrison and India's Ambassador Ronen Sen.

As the U.S. realigns its military forces in Asia, new and diverse domestic “voices” are influencing the way governments in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines manage the American troops stationed in their countries. “In these countries, each national government’s policy agenda is increasingly being questioned and challenged by local governments and citizen interest groups,” says Sheila Smith, a research fellow in Politics, Governance and Security at the East-West Center.

“Outside of government, and often in communities far from the center of national power, the goals and the impacts of U.S. military forces deployed in the Asia Pacific region are being viewed more in terms of their social costs than their strategic value,” says Smith,

who was project director of *Shifting Terrain: The Domestic Politics of the U.S. Military Presence in Asia*. This study, the result of a two-year comparative, cross-national project, was published this spring by the Center and authored by Smith.

“Public tolerance is going to be key as governments negotiate revisions and new agreements with the United States in a much more fluid

regional security environment,” she contends. “Broad public support in these societies for a shared security agenda will be the foundation for future alliance cooperation.”

Between 2004 and 2006, Smith and a multinational team conducted research workshops and field studies in the three countries that have been host to U.S. forces in the region. Their findings reveal increasing concern within these countries about the role and impact of U.S. troops within their borders and a willingness to speak up in more unified ways.

Democratic transitions in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines have spawned a multitude of domestic voices with new avenues for articulating their particular concerns in more open debate on national security and foreign policy issues, including the presence of U.S. forces on domestic terrain. These include new citizen interest groups, including those advocating for protections and rights of women and environmental conservation, with new approaches and strategies for shaping public attitude regarding the military.

Consequently the U.S. is learning how domestic politics in Asia complicates the picture, with policy-making surrounding the U.S. military presence more complex and unpredictable.

“Washington must consider these new domestic influences on governments that host U.S. forces,” Smith says, while national governments in Asia’s democracies must balance their national security goals with the norms that accompany democratization.

“For the national governments of Japan and South Korea, in particular, the policy of hosting



Sheila Smith, EWC Research Fellow

foreign troops is not simply a security policy decision,” she says, “but continues to be a complex set of policies that reflect the growing expectations” of the public for equity and compensation for those citizens who feel the impact of the military presence on their daily lives. The recent violence in Korea over land being used for the relocation of U.S. troops reveals the intensity of local sentiments.

Of increasing public concern is the cost of base consolidation and relocation with U.S. realignment. This is proving to be a thornier issue than anticipated for the national governments. Resolution of ongoing difficulties associated with relocating U.S. military bases on Okinawa and in South Korea, for example, requires garnering local political support in the base communities, Smith suggests.

More broadly, the public in the three Asian countries is increasingly sensitive to the terms of the U.S. presence in their societies. Accidents or crimes committed by U.S. military personnel resonate nationally, and raise questions about the host government’s sovereignty. In both Japan and South Korea, such occurrences have triggered island-wide protests in Okinawa and national protests in Seoul. At issue, Smith notes, “were equal treatment and accountability by U.S. military personnel responsible for accidents and crimes that resulted in civilian injury and loss of life.”

“Washington, Tokyo, Seoul and Manila must give greater attention to the local impacts of U.S. forces and develop policies that mitigate the pressures on local residents,” she says. “And, perhaps most importantly, to be successful new policies for managing the presence of American forces in each of these societies will need to conform to domestic law and meet public expectations for government accountability.”

(The collaborative research project of the East-West Center was funded by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.)

Domestic Politics Signal Shift Toward U.S. Military Presence in Asia

News in Brief

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EWC President Charles E. Morrison with Nguyen Dy Nien, Vietnam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, at a Standing Committee meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council. Morrison, who serves as PECC chair, was in Hanoi for the meeting in April, at which the minister highlighted the importance of regional cooperation.

EWCA Names 2006 Alumni Award Winners

The East-West Center Associates announced the winners of the 2006 Alumni Awards, which will be presented at the EWC/EWCA International Conference in Hanoi, December 7-10. This year's winners are:

■ EWC/EWCA Distinguished Alumni Awards.

This year's recipients are Nereus Acosta, a national congressman, scholar and educator internationally recognized for his work in sustainable development and poverty alleviation, and Wallace Chappell, executive director of the Paul Taylor Dance Company in New York. The award recognizes outstanding accomplishments, including significant contributions to the promotion of better relations and understanding among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and the United States; significant achievement in a career field and continuing support for the goals and objectives of the Center. Each award includes a specially designed certificate and a cash gift of \$1,000.

■ **EWC Outstanding Chapter Award.** The EWCA Chennai Chapter and Asia Pacific Leadership Program Chapter have been selected as this year's recipients. This award recognizes chapters which have provided significant contributions to the goals and programs of the East-West Center Association.

■ **EWC Outstanding Volunteer Awards.** Dan Berman, Ronnie Littlejohn and Fusako and Masao Baba will be recognized for exemplifying what is best in a volunteer, including service to something beyond oneself, a willingness to contribute time and effort without pay, and a donation of time and effort beyond one's normal responsibilities.

PDC Launches Website to Track Avian Influenza

The Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) launched a website in March to help monitor outbreaks of avian influenza at local, regional and international levels. The site contains maps with the locations of human cases as reported by the World Health Organization, and can be accessed at <http://www.pdc.org/ai>.

"It is critical that we be proactive when we prepare for any kind of disaster," says PDC Director Allen Clark. "Monitoring the occurrence and distribution of avian influenza will be indispensable if the disease develops into a major concern. The background information we are providing supports efforts by the global community to track, prepare for and respond to potential outbreaks."

PDC is also working to enhance the site so it includes geographic analysis on the prevalence of the disease in the bird population as well as other relevant information. The East-West Center is the managing partner of the PDC, which is based on Maui.

'Kabuki Through Woodblock Prints' at EWC Gallery

"From Stage to Page: Kabuki Through Woodblock Prints," an exhibition of 31 prints by masters of the Utagawa school, is on exhibit in the East-West Center Gallery, through August 24. A series of public programs on ukiyo-e and kabuki by leading authorities in Hawai'i



and University of Hawai'i Asian Studies Freeman Visiting Scholar Koichi Iwabuchi of Waseda University will be presented.

The exhibition highlights the recent gift of more than 200 ukiyo-e (Japanese woodblock prints) from the Utagawaha Monjinkai Foundation. The prints, selected by

curators Julie A. Iezzi, Onoe Kikunobu and Onoe Kikunobukazu, span the period from 1810 to 1896 and illustrate popular plays and famous actors of the time.

EWC Students Host Annual East-West Fest

The annual East-West Fest, sponsored by the EWC Student Participant Association, brought hundreds of community members to the Center's campus on April 15. This year's fest, themed "Celebrating Peace Through the Arts of the World," featured music and dance performances by students representing 11 countries, and cultural displays and activities, including a "Peace Wall" featuring art by children.

First Permanent Named Alumni Endowment Fund Established at the Center: The OmniTrak Loui Schmicker Scholar Awards!



Alan Ellis OmniTrak Group Vice President; Michael Schmicker; Charles Morrison, EWC President; Patricia Loui, OmniTrak Group President; and Gordon Ring, EWC Alumni Officer

Inspired by U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye's support for the Center, OmniTrak Group founder, President and CEO Patricia Loui-Schmicker recently celebrated OmniTrak's 25th anniversary by establishing the Center's first Permanent Named Endowment. The \$50,000 endowment will provide annual awards for one or more Asia Pacific Leadership Program students. OmniTrak Loui Schmicker Scholars will be selected from among private sector leaders in Hawai'i, Thailand, China or Japan who have a special interest in applying their skills to make an impact in the private sector. A former president of the EWC Association, Loui said, "We hope this award will stimulate more EWC participation from business and non-government organizations and to encourage more collaboration through private-public partnerships."

Pat and her husband, Michael Schmicker, met at the Center in the 1970s, and attest to the positive impact the Center has had on both their personal and professional lives. OmniTrak Group, Inc. is a leading market research company for multi-country research in Asia-Pacific, for studies in culturally diverse U.S. markets, and in Hawai'i. Its clients include The Walt Disney Company, DFS Group, General Motors, The Campbell Estate, Hawai'i Medical Services Association (HMSA), and NCL/Star Cruises.

Ashok Kumar Malhotra Seva (Compassionate Service) Award

The Ashok Kumar Malhotra Seva (Compassionate Service) Award was created by a \$25,000 contribution from 1960's alumnus Ashok Malhotra to reward and encourage public service. Awards will be given each year to one or more international students with an outstanding academic record and a record of and intention to be involved in continuing community service in the U.S. and/or in the Asia Pacific region. The scholarship will encourage the students to use both the theoretical and practical aspects of wisdom gained through their studies in their respective disciplines. Award decisions will be based on financial need, community service, high education achievement, and funding availability. These awards are designed to help EWC students who may need additional assistance to enhance their grants provided by the East-West Center and are based in part on financial need.



Ashok Malhotra

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On behalf of the East-West Center, we would like to thank those individuals, corporations, businesses, foundations, and organizations that have generously contributed to the East-West Center Foundation.

Listed are the gifts received between December 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006.

The East-West Center Foundation has made every effort to present an accurate listing of donors. If your name has been omitted or erroneously listed, please call the EWC Foundation at 808-944-7102.

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at Bank of Hawai'i**

Charles Morrison, EWC president, spoke on “Asia Pacific Outlook 2006” on February 14, 2006

Jim Herman, EWC Diplomat in Residence, spoke on “Secure Borders, Open Doors” on March 14, 2006.

Allen Clark, EWC senior fellow, spoke on “Avian Flu: Tracking its Spread, Anticipating its Impacts” on May 9, 2006.

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Stanley W. Hong, Trustee, King William Lunalilo Trust Estate; Stanley M. Kuriyama, President & CEO, Alexander & Baldwin Land Group; Theodore B. Lee, President, Urban Land of Nevada; and Gulab Watumull, President, Watumull Brothers, Ltd. were appointed to the board.

EWC Alumni Prepare for the International Conference in Vietnam

“It is important for our alumni to connect with current students at our conferences. This coming together of the generations reignites the EWC spirit amongst the alumni, reinforces the ties in the network, and paves the way for future collaborative efforts.”

EWC Alumni Officer
Gordon Ring

EWC Alumni Officer Gordon Ring (2nd from left) meets with EWCA Hanoi Chapter members to plan for the upcoming international conference in Vietnam.

After the recent success of the EWCA's South Asia Regional Conference in New Delhi, alumni and staff of the Center have turned their attention toward organizing the upcoming international conference hosted for the first time in Vietnam. The conference, to be held in Hanoi from December 7-10, 2006, will focus on the theme of “Building an Asia Pacific Community for Sustainable Development.”

Hundreds of EWC alumni and colleagues from around the globe will gather to discuss critical issues of common concern and seek viable solutions, while strengthening their professional network. Panel presentations, discussions, and poster sessions will focus on the following topics: Sustainable Management and Natural Resource Use; Conservation of Biological Diversity; Cultural Diversity and the Arts; International Relations and Globalization; Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Economic Growth; Disaster Reduction; Health and Population; Education; Media and Communication; and Women and Development.

This year, current EWC students in the Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP) together with APLP alumni, will participate in the conference, taking the lead in some of the panel sessions. EWC Alumni Officer Gordon Ring recognizes this involvement as a very positive step. He expressed, “It is important for our alumni to connect with current students at our conferences. This coming together of the generations reignites the EWC spirit amongst the alumni, reinforces the ties in the network, and paves the way for future collaborative efforts.”

The East-West Center Association (EWCA) is a global network of more than 50,000 government, business, NGO, and educational professionals who have participated in EWC programs. These alumni have established 45 chapters that continue to support and enhance the Center's mission. At this conference, EWCA chapter leaders will participate in a skills development workshop and will consult on ways to stimulate alumni collaboration and service.



Another highlight of the conference will be the distinguished keynote speakers including Ambassador Le Van Bang, deputy foreign minister for Vietnam; Ton Nu Thi Ninh, vice chair for international relations of the Vietnam National Assembly; U.S. Ambassador Michael Marine; EWC President Charles E. Morrison; former U.S. ambassador to Vietnam and current director of EWC's East-West Seminars, Raymond Burghardt; along with other leaders from the Asia Pacific region. The conference, to be held at the Melia Hanoi Hotel, will also honor the EWC's Distinguished Alumni of the year at the closing Aloha Dinner.

For consideration as a conference presenter, submit your registration form and abstract to the conference committee. **The deadline for priority consideration of abstracts is July 31, 2006.** In addition, the deadline for the early conference registration rate is fast approaching — August 31, 2006. Complete information for conference registration, accommodations, and submittal of presentation abstracts can be found at www.EastWestCenter.org/Vietnam2006 or contact the EWC Associates Office by phone (808) 944-7506 or email: Vietnam2006@EastWestCenter.org.

The conference is being organized by the East-West Center, the EWCA, and the EWCA Hanoi Chapter, working in cooperation with the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA). Conference Co-Chair, ThanhLo Sananikone noted, “Based on the initial enthusiastic responses we have received, we are expecting a great turnout at the conference. Our Vietnamese colleagues are eager as well, as it will provide a special opportunity for our EWC community to discover the beauty and diversity of Vietnam.”





*Pakistan Consul General
N.M. Jadmani*

Pakistan Envoy: U.S.-Pakistan Relations Pivotal Regionally, Globally

The Pakistan-U.S. relationship is pivotal both regionally and globally, noted N.M. Jadmani, Pakistan consul general in Los Angeles. “Whenever Pakistan and the United States have acted together we have achieved tremendous success,” he said.

Jadmani spoke at a public program at the East-West Center in mid-May. Historically Pakistan has the distinction of being “the most allied ally and the most sanctioned ally of the United States,” he observed. Despite “the ups and downs” in the relationship, he said the most “enduring feature has been the friendship between the people of our two countries.”

He thanked the American government and people for their immediate response and assistance after the earthquake in northern Pakistan last October, and for ongoing support to devastated areas as reconstruction begins.

“Whenever we did not maintain and sustain a deep relationship both of our countries suffered negative consequences,” Jadmani said, referring to the turbulence in Afghanistan that has spanned three decades.

However, he was quick to point out that Islamabad and Washington have worked through their difficulties and “have joined hands to defeat the forces of extremism and terrorism.”

The Pakistan-U.S. relationship has not only been revived since 9/11 but has also undergone “a profound transformation,” he said, moving beyond the war on terror into the arenas of defense, the economy, education and science and technology. Pakistan and the United States are moving away from “the roller-coaster pattern” of past relations, he said. “Our engagement this time is for the long term.”

In his discussion of nuclear proliferation and deterrence, Jadmani said Pakistan “supports nuclear stabilization and restraint in the region and is opposed to any arms race.”

Pakistan is ready to work proactively toward peace and stability in South Asia, the envoy said, adding that progress in this direction depends on a solution to the Kashmir issue and stability in Afghanistan. Just as Pakistan and the U.S. worked together to help Afghanistan overcome Soviet occupation, Jadmani said, “We must work together to consolidate the means and address the remaining challenges” toward a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

“Nuclear Weapons and Security in 21st Century Asia,” the theme of a three-day workshop sponsored by East-West Center Washington, assembled a group of international scholars and experts on security and nuclear issues in Washington, D.C., in early May. Among the list of distinguished participants at the three-day meeting was Nobel Prize Laureate Thomas Schelling, Distinguished Professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy.

In opening remarks, EWC Washington Director Muthiah Alagappa explained the intent of the comparative study on the nuclear situation in Asia.

“The purpose of the project is to develop an in-depth understanding of the nuclear policies and strategies of selected countries in the context of their contemporary foreign and security policy goals and priorities,” he said.

“The nuclear situation in Asia should not be viewed only through a non- or counter-proliferation lens,” he said. “Such an exclusive approach obscures the issues and challenges arising from the possession, development and deployment of nuclear weapons and delivery systems in the Asian security region and also the development of ballistic missile defense. As Asia will not be rid of nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future, it is crucial to understand and manage the nuclear situation in its totality.”

He invited participants to engage in discussion of such issues as the place of nuclear weapons in the national security strategy, the purpose and roles assigned



*Nobel Prize Laureate Thomas Schelling with EWC
Washington Director Muthiah Alagappa.*

to nuclear weapons, the content of nuclear doctrines and strategies, how they are being implemented and their limitations. He also asked they consider the security provided by nuclear weapons for the country concerned, impact upon subregional and regional security dynamics, and the consequences for security and stability in the region.

In the sessions, participants discussed papers that addressed these issues in the United States, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, Iran, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Southeast Asia and by non-state actors.

Alagappa said the ultimate goal of the project is a book and “a new network among scholars and practitioners with the goal of fostering the development of a pool of scholars with interest and expertise on the subject.” A second meeting will be held in Tokyo in November.

Tackling Issues of Nuclear Weapons and Security in 21st Century Asia

Publications in Review

The Fourth Circle: A Political Ecology of Sumatra's Rainforest Frontier, by John F. McCarthy. *Contemporary Issues in Asia and the Pacific* (sponsored by the East-West Center and published by Stanford University Press). Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006. 392 pp.

The Fourth Circle addresses the politics of environmental change in one of the richest areas of tropical rainforest in Indonesia. Based on field studies conducted in three agricultural communities in rural Aceh, this work considers a number of questions: How do customary (*adat*) village and state

institutions work? What roles do they play in managing local resources? How have they evolved over time? Are villagers, state policies or corrupt local networks responsible for the loss of tropical rainforests? Will better outcomes emerge from revitalizing customary management, from changing state policies or from transforming the way the state works? And why do projects designed by outsiders so often fail?

Cloth, \$70.00; paper, \$27.95. Order this publication from University of Chicago Press Distribution Center, (800)621-2736.

Asia Pacific Security Survey 2006 Report, by Richard W. Baker. Honolulu: East-West Center, 2006. iv, 34 pp. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/find.asp?it=APSS2006.

This report presents the results of a survey completed by 73 security analysts from 15 countries in the Asia Pacific

region plus two other "country groups" — Europe and the Pacific Islands. The survey is an outgrowth and continuation of the "Asia Pacific Security Outlook" project and book series launched in 1997 under the joint sponsorship of the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), the ASEAN/ISIS institutions and the East-West Center.

The following two publications are in *Policy Studies*, a peer-reviewed East-West Center Washington series that presents scholarly analysis of key contemporary domestic and international political, economic and strategic issues affecting Asia in a policy relevant manner.

China's Rise: Implications for U.S. Leadership in Asia, by Robert G. Sutter. *Policy Studies 21*. Washington, DC: East-West Center Washington, 2006. x, 80 pp. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/find.asp?it=PolicySt021.

This study argues that overt U.S. competition with China for influence in Asia is unwelcome, counterproductive for U.S. interests and unwarranted given the limited challenge posed by China's rise. U.S. policymakers should not be misled by prevailing assessments that exaggerate China's influence in Asia relative to that of the United States. Washington should resist recent congressional, media and interest group pressures that employ overstated appraisals of China's rising power in order to push for tougher competition with China.

Contrary to prevailing commentaries, the study demonstrates that China's advance rests on a fairly narrow foundation — generally adroit Chinese diplomacy and intra-Asian trade that is less significant than the reported figures of annual trade between China and its neighbors would suggest. China's influence in Asia is undermined by domestic preoccupations, nationalistic ambitions at odds with neighbors and the adverse economic implications of China's rise for many in Asia. Predictions of an emerging order in Asia led by China reflect a poor understanding of the ambitions of Asian governments, the resilience of U.S. power and leadership, and the actual status of China's influence relative to that of the United States.

Paper, \$10.00. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.

India's Globalization: Evaluating the Economic Consequences, by Baldev Raj Nayar. *Policy Studies 22*. Washington, DC: East-West Center Washington, 2006. x, 100 pp. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/find.asp?it=PolicySt022.

The economic consequences of globalization for India are systematically evaluated in light of the attack of critics against globalization on grounds of economic stagnation, "deindustrialization," "denationalization," destabilization and impoverishment. On the basis of abundant qualitative and quantitative data, this study strongly repudiates the case of the critics, and demonstrates that India has been a significant beneficiary of the globalization process.

Instead of economic stagnation, for example, India has seen acceleration in its average annual rate of economic

growth. Instead of deindustrialization, there has been substantial industrial growth and acceleration in the industrial growth rate. Instead of denationalization, business in India is now more competitive and is venturing forth into the global market; increased imports and the entry of foreign multinationals have not swamped it. Essentially, India is master of its own destiny. The policy conclusion that flows from this experience is that India ought to be, in general, more open to globalization in the interest of sustaining the acceleration in economic growth and enhancing the welfare of its people. To this end it should push forward with its reform agenda.

Paper, \$10.00. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.

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Ford Foundation Increases Funding for International Fellowships Program

The Ford Foundation added another \$75 million to its \$280-million International Fellowships Program (IFP). Currently the East-West Center hosts the largest number of IFP fellows on a single campus worldwide. Some 70 IFP students at the Center are working toward

graduate degrees at the adjacent University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

"The new funding allows the IFP to continue to reach out to those who traditionally do not have the opportunity to further their education," EWC Director of Education Terance Bigalke said. "The program targets those potential students who are not part of the national elite, people who live in small towns and rural areas and ethnic minorities."

Kim Small, EWC scholarship program coordinator, noted the selection process for an IFP grant is extremely competitive. According to Small, thousands of students

applied for the IFP program in Indonesia, with only 45 selected. IFP fellows must show "strong leadership potential, demonstrate a desire to effect social justice, and have strong ties to their home communities," Bigalke said.

Chalermchai Thongsook is an IFP student at the Center. He is an NGO activist from the Issan region in the rural and poor northeast corner of Thailand. Thongsook is currently studying "social system transformation based on Buddhist wisdom and practices, and ecological principles." He is gaining knowledge "to take home and put into practice," he says, through his studies at the university.

Le Thi Thuy Trang, a research scientist from Vietnam, is doing graduate studies in agronomy, specializing in the utilization and transfer of modern biotechnology principles and techniques for plant breeding. "I hope to learn to improve plants and crops in my home country," she says. "We need to develop new strains and create advanced varieties (of crops) that resist disease, produce higher yields, and have shorter breeding cycles."

At the Center, students in the IFP program have proven unfounded the initial concerns that they might not be able to complete a program of rigorous academic coursework. "Our IFP fellows have earned a combined 3.58 grade-point average at the University of Hawai'i," Bigalke said.

"All of the IFP scholars, especially those we host here at the East-West Center, have a real commitment to use their knowledge to help their own people, their own communities, develop," Small added. "They all are really connected to their communities and share a strong moral obligation to return home to better the lives of their people and to effect social justice through their work."



International Ford Foundation students from China, Indonesia, and Vietnam with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy during his visit to the East-West Center.

International Conference Studies Lessons Learned from East Timor Trials

Key participants and observers reflected on the lessons learned during the five-year UN Serious Crimes trials in East Timor at an international conference in Bangkok, May 26 to 29. The conference, to promote regional discussion on international justice, was of particular importance with work expected to begin this summer on the Khmer Rouge tribunal in Cambodia.

Attending the sessions were individuals from the international community and East Timor who represented all parts of the process, including investigation, prosecution, defense, judges, appeals, human rights oversight, and administration and senior management. Also invited were participants from the ASEAN international law and human rights community and from the Khmer Rouge tribunal.

"The goal of the conference is to reflect upon the experience of the five years of the Serious Crimes

Process so that other tribunals and individuals interested in international justice may learn from the challenges and successes of the trials in Dili," said David Cohen of the War Crimes Studies Center and one of the gathering's two coordinators. "Many of the same issues will be faced by the Phnom Penh tribunal."

Fellow coordinator Philip Estermann of the East-West Center added that "the aim is to promote regional discussion of international justice issues that emerged in the East Timor trials and collectively reflect upon the guidance that 'lessons learned' from this experience may provide for the future."

The conference was co-sponsored by the East-West Center and the War Crimes Studies Center at the University of California, Berkeley.

Notes and Quotes

From
"Singaporeans Vote
in Prime Minister Lee's
First Poll"
in Bloomberg.com
May 6, 2006

Singaporeans voted today in polls seen as a key test of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's 21-month-old government, which has vowed to help older workers and low-income earners and provide affordable health care.

Lee, the elder son of Lee Kuan Yew, founder of modern Singapore, has been challenged by candidates over health and housing policies. The campaign was also overshadowed by a spat between the ruling party and an opposition candidate who wrongly accused the government of losing his election form....

The prime minister said he could "deal with" the two elected opposition members, as well as a third who was nominated after losing in the previous election, the

Straits Times reported, citing Lee at a political rally. However, if there were 10 to 20 opposition seats in Parliament, he would have to spend more time thinking about countering them and solving the week's problems instead of longer-term concerns, the paper said.

"The human rights groups will always have issues with disciplinarian or Victorian-nanny approaches, but that's just not going to affect investments," said Richard Baker, a former diplomat who's a special assistant to the president of the East-West Center, a research organization in Honolulu. "The investors look first and foremost at stability and economic success, and Singapore has got it all."

From
"Leaders Must Talk"
In the Fiji Times
May 6, 2006

Political leaders in Fiji must engage in Talanoa talks after the general election to thrash out key issues affecting the nation, the East-West Center says.

The Honolulu-based research institute that volunteered Dr. Sitiveni Halapua to be the moderator in talks between caretaker Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase and Opposition leader Mahendra Chaudhry, said ideas of bringing political leaders together should not always come from any one place or individual.

"Maybe in the post-election period there's a continuing need for that (Talanoa) but I think it's an idea that should not necessarily be that of the East-West Center only," institute president Dr. Charles Morrison said. "Talanoa has never ended. It's a continuing process. Sessions could be held whenever needed but really nobody can force the leaders to come together for Talanoa talks."

From
"Clinging to a
Good Thing"
By Lance Dickie
in the Seattle Times
April 21, 2006

China sits on the northwest border of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, across the Yalu River. North Korea is a dirt-poor, authoritarian basket case of 23 million people with a grim past and no prospects. Kim Jong Il fidgets atop a powder keg of repression, hunger and potentially millions of economic refugees.

Well, surprise, surprise. The wholly unexpected dynamic for me is the unvarnished lack of enthusiasm for reunification in South Korea. Bring it up in meetings with public officials or informal conversations with regular folks and the answer is blandly affirmative: Of course reunification must be done for the sake of the

elderly long separated from their families. Just as quickly such chit-chat turns to the weather.

Young professionals and university students roll their eyes, and bluntly assert it will not happen in their lifetimes, and dismiss the sincerity of older generations that suggest otherwise.

I had assumed reunification — however difficult and improbable — was devoutly desired. That was before two intensive weeks of travel in South Korea, on a journalist exchange program sponsored by the Korea Press Foundation and the East-West Center in Honolulu.

From
"Hu Heads to U.S.,
Hoping to Show
China Is No Threat"
in Forbes.com
April 18, 2006

Observers said China ultimately needs to show more of a commitment to a lasting relationship with the world's most powerful nation.

"China needs to state vehemently that it continues to see the United States as a stabilizing force in the Asia Pacific," said Christopher McNally, a China

specialist at the East-West Center, a Honolulu-based think tank.

"Ideally, (this should include) a series of senior strategic dialogues between Beijing and Washington, involving one to two regular presidential summits per year as well as intensive trust-building among the militaries."



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