

Observer

2008 EWC Community Building Award Honors King of Thailand

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand was guest of honor at several special East-West Center events during her visit to Hawai'i on February 29 and March 1.

The princess accepted the EWC's Asia Pacific Community Building Award on behalf of her father, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, at the annual "International Affair" dinner on February 29. More than 800 community and business leaders in Hawai'i attended the event at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. The award was given in recognition of the king's dedicated work for the welfare of the people of Thailand.

"Building relations and understanding across cultural, ideological and other divides is not an easy task, but there is no more important mission in our very uncertain world," said EWC President Charles E. Morrison, in presenting the award. "So each year, the Center humbly recognizes and proudly honors outstanding leaders whose vision and professional and personal accomplishments exemplify this mission. The Asia Pacific Community Building Award recognizes not only their own accomplishments, but also their ability to inspire others, particularly younger people, to action.

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Surin Pitsuwan: Charter Key to ASEAN Revitalization

If ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, does not thoroughly reinvent itself, it could rapidly slip into irrelevance, cautioned Surin Pitsuwan, the new Secretary-General of the organization, in late January.

And that rethinking, said Surin, a former Foreign Minister of Thailand, starts with the adoption of a concrete constitution, or charter, that will guide the 40-year-old organization into a new era of political, economic, social and even strategic relevance in the region and in the world.

The secretary-general made his remarks in an address before nearly 200 journalists and guests at the opening session of a major media conference sponsored by the East-West Center and co-hosted by the National Press Council of Thailand in Bangkok, January 21-23.

(To access the conference blog, go to: <http://forum.eastwestcenter.org/mediaconference/>)

There was a time, Surin said, when ASEAN's relevance was largely dependent on its role as an honest broker across Asia. "Dialogue partners," such as China and Japan, found ASEAN meetings a congenial place for their own often-difficult bilateral conversations.

But with China, Japan and other big powers now talking more directly to each other, ASEAN must come up with a fresh role, he argued. And that, he said, is as a charter-driven regional leader and global player. "If ASEAN can grow into a viable, strong and effective and dynamic growth sector, the world will have one less region to worry about, and that is enormous," he said.

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Tibet Unrest Signals Deeper Problems in China



Christopher McNally

While the unrest and street violence that erupted in Tibet is rooted in resentment against the Chinese government's neo-colonial policies, it is also symptomatic of broader and even more serious problems within the overall Chinese political economy, says Christopher McNally, a China specialist and research fellow at the East-West Center.

"While the grievances of the Tibetans are unique," McNally says, "they are also symptomatic of more deep-seated problems throughout China."

Those problems include environmental degradation, corruption — particularly at the local level — political repression and the increasingly painful gap between rich and poor.

Across China, McNally said, there is a growing "malaise" as the negative fallout from over-heated economic growth becomes real. Food prices have soared by some 23 percent year over year and the overall inflation rate of 8.7 percent is the highest in more than a decade. These economic pressures, combined with social disruption, environmental problems and continuing corruption are creating pressures throughout Chinese society.

"Those on the bottom who thought their lives would get better are disappointed," he said. "Inflation is eating them alive."

And while all of China feels the fallout of this headlong economic drive, the impact is particularly dramatic in Tibet where many ethnic Tibetans have failed to gain their share of the nation's economic progress. Unemployment, poverty and lack of access to social services are all particularly acute in Tibet, he said. In short, poor ethnic Tibetans are forced to take the full

brunt of the negative impact of China's capitalist juggernaut while failing to share in its benefits.

"There's something hollow about the system, and we're seeing it right now in Tibet," he said.

McNally acknowledges that the unique nature of the Tibetan situation made it easier for this simmering discontent to erupt publicly. There is longstanding resentment over heavy-handed control by the Chinese over virtually every aspect of Tibetan life, ranging from the migration of Han Chinese into Tibet to religious management and "patriotic education sessions" for monks in Tibetan monasteries, including "even up to how reincarnations are handled," he said.

The coming 2008 Beijing Olympics has provided a political opportunity for Tibetan resentment to be aired. Combined with the tools of the information age, text-messaging, cell-phone photos and the Internet, it fueled what might otherwise have been a localized and rapidly controlled uprising, McNally said. Reports have emerged of protests and demonstrations in Tibetan enclaves across China — even in Chengdu and Beijing itself.

Where this will go is anyone's guess. But McNally pointed out that the Chinese leadership itself, especially Premier Wen Jiabao, have noted that 2008 is likely to be one of the most difficult years for China's economy.

Indeed, McNally said, there are "eerie parallels" to the unrests of 1989 that led to the mass demonstrations and crackdown at Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Protests that year began as they have this year, in Tibet. "Heavy-handed Leninist policies are evident in many areas in China," McNally said. "They're just more visible in Tibet."

The East-West Center Observer

is a quarterly newsletter published by the East-West Center, a public non-profit institution established in 1960 to foster mutual understanding and cooperation among the governments and peoples of the Asia Pacific region, including the United States.

Volume 12, Number 1
Winter 2008

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Community Building Award Honors King of Thailand

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"It is therefore highly appropriate that tonight we honor one of Asia's most dedicated, most respected, and most beloved leaders, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej," Morrison said.

In a picturesque ceremony the following morning, the princess formally dedicated the recently reconstructed Royal Sala Thai, or Thai pavilion, on the EWC campus. At that event, she also met privately with students from Thailand and members of Hawai'i's Thai community and presented the EWC with a \$185,000 scholarship endowment raised by Center alumni and other donors to the Royal Sala Thai Scholarship Fund, which will assist Thai students studying at the Center.

More than 3,000 Thai scholars, researchers, students and professionals in business, government, journalism and the arts have participated in EWC cooperative programs of research, study, training and dialogue since the Center was established in 1960.

In her remarks at the dedication ceremony, the princess described the king's intent in gifting the

original sala to the Center in 1967 as a symbolic meeting place for people from different nations and cultures to come together and exchange knowledge and ideas. Due to age and climate conditions, the original sala was reconstructed in 2006 under the auspices of the king. The new structure, made of hard woods and elaborately carved and painted in gold, was built in Thailand and assembled in Hawai'i by a crew of traditional craftsmen.

"In the old days, one way of community service or merit-making was to build a pavilion, or a Thai sala," the princess said. "...Its purpose is for any traveler or passerby to rest a while during their journey. A sala is, therefore, a labor of love. It is free for all travelers coming from different directions. At the sala, travelers may have an opportunity to meet and share their ideas and information with one another. It was, therefore, His Majesty's wish to build a sala here at the East-West Center as a symbol of universal hospitality and brotherhood of mankind."

Pakistan, Economic Outlook and Global Warming Top Regional Concerns in 2008

In his annual briefing on key political, economic and security issues in Asia and the Pacific, EWC President Charles E. Morrison identified political instability in Pakistan, the economic outlook for the region and climate change as areas of concern in 2008.

While it has been a long time since there has been a conflict between neighbors, tensions simmer within the borders of Burma, Sri Lanka, Northeast India and Southern Thailand. But the most worrisome is the situation in Pakistan, Morrison warned, at an AsiaPacific Breakfast Briefing sponsored by Bank of Hawaii in January.

"This is an unpopular government with no easy alternatives," he said. Raising questions about the nation's stability are a history of transitions in leadership that have not been very successful or democratic, a spillover from the conflicts in Afghanistan

with elements of Al Qaeda and the Taliban sequestered in tribal areas, and an upcoming presidential election.

How events will play out are unknown, however, Morrison pointed out, "Pakistan has a society which has not voted for extreme Islamic elements, so there are some rays of hope although there are an awful lot of problems there."



Charles E. Morrison

As for the economy, a Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) forecast for 2008 predicted healthy growth in the region. But there is a worry, Morrison said, of a downturn, aggravated by subprime mortgage lending woes in the U.S. and increasing inflation, particularly in China.

For the first time the dangers of global warming are being acknowledged and discussed in various venues, including the impact of dependency on oil and of climate change. "In many ways this reflects the heightened debate on how to share these burdens and address them," Morrison said.

Morrison noted that China, the U.S., Russia, India and Japan rank as the top five emitters. "It's hard to imagine a successful global agreement without including Asian developing countries, because China and India are leading emitters," he said. Their economies are growing fast, along with emission and use of energy. "This is an important and ongoing issue that we'll certainly be following throughout the year. It sets up a debate as to how to make an (international) agreement fair."

EWC Tackling Public Health Issues in Asia and the Pacific

Is globalization good for your health? EWC Director Nancy Lewis posed that question to business and community leaders at an AsiaPacific Breakfast Briefing sponsored by Bank of Hawaii in March. She enumerated the increasing threats in a global era: population growth and movement, urbanization,

climate change, natural disasters, economic and environmental policies, the misuse of antibiotics, travel and deteriorating health infrastructure.

A geographer trained in public health, Lewis has worked on issues related to health and the environment in the Asia Pacific region for three decades. During that time she has tracked the escalation of the global burden of disease, especially non-communicable disease which is expected to impact twice as many people in 2020 as in 1990. On the bright side, she noted that communicable or infectious diseases such as AIDs, tuberculosis, malaria and measles, are expected to decline in that same span of time.

She discussed ways the East-West Center is engaged in public health-related research and training in the region:

- Population experts continue to provide policymakers with valuable analysis of the impact of declining birth rates and rise in aging populations in Asia.

- The EWC has played a successful role in prevention programs for HIV/AIDS in Thailand and other countries in the region.

- Researchers are collaborating with counterparts in Asia to address concerns about emerging infectious disease and exposure to air pollution.

- Work is ongoing on climate variability and change and the affect on human health.

Lewis concluded with a discussion of a new initiative, the Health Journalism Fellowship Program. Recognizing the need to increase awareness and education about health issues, the EWC launched a media program for Asia, Pacific and American journalists. They travel together, get a first-hand look at how countries are tackling particular health issues and exchange perspectives on these challenges as they relate to their societies, which ultimately enriches their reporting.



Nancy Lewis

News in Brief

Supporting the Center

RECENT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

RESEARCH/ECONOMICS

Korea Transport Institute
\$25,000

U.S. Agency for International Development/
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\$150,000

RESEARCH/POLITICS & SECURITY

Government of United Kingdom
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
\$30,820

PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT

Presidential Committee on Government Innovation & Decentralization
\$27,484

EDUCATION

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\$192,673

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Hawai'i Pacific Rim Society
\$60,000

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\$173,296

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EWC Foundation/
Gee Hing Chinese Company Charitable Trust
\$6,500

EWC Foundation/
Hawai'i Pacific Rim Society
\$48,000

EWC International Graduate Conference Hosts 130 Students from 25 Nations

Some 130 graduate students from 50 universities in 25 nations gathered at the Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center to present their research at the East-West Center's 7th annual International Graduate Student Conference, February 14-16.

The interdisciplinary gathering, planned and organized by EWC students, is the largest of its kind worldwide. The primarily self-funded participants were selected from 440 graduate students who submitted abstracts. About 30 of the presenters came from abroad, 30 from Hawai'i and the remainder from the U.S. Mainland.

The three-day conference included some 32 sessions in a number of areas focusing on the Asia Pacific region and its interactions with the U.S. Panel topics ranged from "Transnational Migrant Experiences," "Health and Aging Issues" and "State, Minorities and Conflict," to "Education in a Globalized World," "Economic Growth and Inequality" and the "Media and Society."

Rice Names Four Members to EWC Board of Governors

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently appointed four new members to three-year terms on the East-West Center's Board of Governors. The new members are:

- **Lori Forman**, Microsoft director of community affairs for Asia.
- **Theodore B. Lee**, president of the Urban Land Company in San Francisco and Las Vegas.
- **S. Linn Williams**, executive vice president, general counsel and chief compliance officer of the Mirant Corporation.
- **Michael K. Young**, president of the University of Utah.

In addition, Rice re-appointed former U.S. Rep. for Hawai'i **Patricia F. Saiki** to a second term on the board.

Khmer Rouge War Crimes Tribunal Receives Training in International Law

The Asian International Justice Initiative (AIJI), a collaboration between the EWC and the War Crimes Studies Center at the University of California, Berkeley, conducted training workshops in international law in February for all the judges of the Khmer Rouge war-crimes tribunal in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The workshops focused on legal issues likely to play a central role in the tribunal's upcoming trials. Seminars included major areas of substantive and procedural law, followed by specialized workshops for the tribunal's Pre-Trial Chamber — which has already begun hearings in several cases — and Office of the Co-Investigating Judges.

The tribunal, the formal name of which is the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), was formed after the Cambodian National Assembly passed a law in 2001 to create a court to try serious crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge regime of 1975-1979.

The AIJI has already conducted workshops for the tribunal's prosecution and defense in the summer and fall of 2007, and further workshops are anticipated in the coming year.

EWC Board Member on South Korea Presidential Transition Team

EWC Board of Governors member Il SaKong has been appointed to the transition team of South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak. A former finance minister, SaKong will co-chair the transition team's special council on national competitiveness. The subcommittee is charged with developing blueprints to advance Lee's goals of invigorating the Korean economy through measures such as the creation of an international hub city for science and business, increased foreign investment and reduced red tape and overlapping jurisdictions in the public sector.

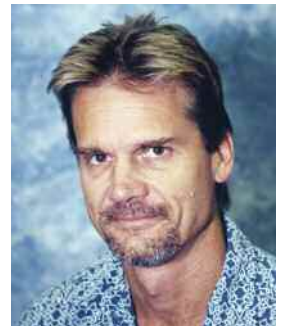
SaKong is chairman and CEO of the Institute for Global Economics in Seoul. He was formerly Minister of Finance (1987-88) and Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Affairs (1983-87). He also served the Korean government as ambassador for International Economy and Trade (2000-02), and member of the Council of National Economic Affairs for the President (2001-04).



Il SaKong

Leading Journal Praises 'Changing Education'

A new book resulting from the EWC's International Forum for Education (IFE) 2020 project won praise in *Comparative Education Review*, the leading academic journal in the field. Reviewer W. James Jacob writes that *Changing Education: Leadership, Innovation and*



Peter D. Hershock

Development in a Globalizing Asia Pacific "is an exceptional volume with an overall focus that identifies and challenges the boundaries of the dominant educational paradigm. ...the book will appeal to a broad audience, including students, educators, researchers, and policy makers."

The book was edited by Peter D. Hershock, coordinator of the EWC's Asian Studies Development Program; Mark Mason, director of the Comparative Education Research Centre at the University of Hong Kong (which published the book); and John N. Hawkins, director of the Center for International and Development Education at UCLA and an EWC consultant. It evolved out of IFE 2020 meetings at which education scholars were invited to present "out of the box" changes in education policy.

The volume responds to concerns about the inadequacy of current educational systems and programs to meet the demands of fast-changing societies in the region. These systems were developed for societies that have long been transformed, and yet no parallel transformation has taken place in the education systems they spawned.

MAHALO

The East-West Center and East-West Center Foundation thank the following individuals and companies for contributing to make this event a success.

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Jean M. Ariyoshi, Don K. Kim

Silent Auction Chairs

Amy Agbayani, Lyn Flanigan, Thanh Lo Sananikone

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continued



Representing His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn accepts the Asia Pacific Community Building Award from Charles Morrison and Roland Lagareta.

2008 East-West Center Dinner Honors His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand

More than eight hundred people attended this year's dinner, "An International Affair," helping to raise over \$200,000 for East-West Center students and programs. The event took place on Friday, February 29th at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom and was co-chaired by Jean M. Ariyoshi and Don K. Kim.

Hawaiian healer and chanter Kamaki Kanahale opened the program with an oli (Hawaiian chant). The evening also included performances by The Royal Thai Dancers and Musicians from the Fine Arts



Royal Thai Dancers and Musicians perform Thawai Papon ("Blessing for the King").

Department of the Royal Thai Government and a hula performance dedicated to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. "The Queen's Jubilee," composed by Queen Lili'uokalani in 1887 when she was still a princess, was selected and performed by Aureana Tseu.

A video prepared by the Thai government illustrated how **His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej** has helped to achieve impressive growth and better conditions for the people so that Thailand could serve as an anchor of peace and stability in a turbulent Southeast Asia region. Representing His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, **Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** received the **Asia Community Building Award** from President Charles E. Morrison.

The Asia Pacific Community Building Award recognizes individuals whose vision and accomplishments exemplify the mission of the East-West Center. Past recipients include U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Mr. and Mrs. Houghton "Buck" Freeman of the Freeman Foundation, former Philippines President Corazon Aquino, influential Indian business leader Ratan Tata, and former Grand Master of the Urasenke Tea Tradition, Dr. Genshitsu (Soshitsu XV) Sen.

The visit of Her Royal Highness to Hawai'i came as the U.S. and Thailand commemorated the 175th anniversary of formal relations, one of the most longstanding friendships between America and any Asian nation.

2008 East-West Center Dinner Honors HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

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Contributions to the
East-West Center received
between January 1, 2008
and March 31, 2008
will appear in the next
issue of the Observer.



Between Jean Ariyoshi and Charles Morrison, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn greets former Governor George Ariyoshi.



Filifotu Vaai, Hye Sun Kang, Evelyn Pusal and Gyanendra Chaundhary were among the students representing the EWC at the dinner.



Don Kim, Jean Ariyoshi and Charles Morrison present a special gift of a koa elephant sculpture to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.



Don Kim, Chieko Morrison, Puongpun Sananikone, Charles Morrison, Chamnong Vibulsri, Yavadee Vibulsri, Pakinee Portmore, Ralph Portmore, Thanh Lo Sananikone



*(seated, from left) Ted Lee, Leatrice Fung, Delphine Jamieson
(standing, from left) Wilma Chang, Jade Sen, Betty Wo,
Dean Jamieson, Doris Lee, Dr. Walter Chang, Larry Fung*



Toufiq Siddiqi, Robin Campaniano, Valerie Campaniano, Ulrike Siddiqi, Satu Limaye



*(seated, from left) Stella Moon, Ronald Moon,
Tun Daim Zainuddin, Cecilia Lee
(standing, from left) Mary Cooke, Hank Wuh, Sam Cooke,
Bill Hinshaw, Virginia Hinshaw, Elabe' Mir-Djalali
Omidyar*



*(seated, from left) Karl Okemura, Ed Kubo, Tammy Kubo, Kumiko Nomura
(standing, from left) Janet Oshiro, Alfred Wong, Laurie Wong, Naobumi Nomura, Leslie Oshiro*

**More dinner photos
can be viewed on the
East-West Center
Foundation website:**

**[http://foundation.eastwestcenter.org/
aninternationalaffair.html](http://foundation.eastwestcenter.org/aninternationalaffair.html)**

Thai Alumni and Friends Raise \$185,000 for Royal Sala Thai Scholarship Fund



HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and the Royal Sala Thai Scholarship Fund Committee paused for a commemorative photo on the newly-dedicated Royal Sala Thai.

THE ROYAL SALA THAI SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

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Since the founding of the East-West Center in 1960, Thai citizens have received more than 3,000 East-West Center Awards, including Student Scholarships, Visiting Fellowships, and Professional Associate Awards. These Thai nationals, side by side with other Asian nationals and Americans, have participated in the Center's core educational programs and in collaborative projects throughout the region.

Recognizing the importance of leadership to the future of Thailand and the Asia Pacific region, a core group of Thai alumni and friends who cherish their memories of the EWC experience, decided to commemorate the visit of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and the dedication of the new Royal Sala Thai by forming a Committee to raise funds — primarily in Thailand — to create the Royal Sala Thai Scholarship Fund. With the dedicated leadership of the five co-chairs, the committee has already raised more than \$185,000 to make it possible for students from Thailand to participate in EWC educational programs. Although fellowships offered through the EWC provide substantial financial assistance, many qualified Thai students do not have sufficient resources to cover the travel or living costs required beyond the basic fellowship award.

Donors

The East-West Center and East-West Center Foundation thank the following individuals, organizations, companies and the Royal Thai Government for contributing to The Royal Sala Thai Scholarship Fund.

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Sirivadhanabhakdi

PRESIDENT (\$10,000 +)

Dr. Rawewan Prakobpol

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East-West Center and Hawai'i Alumni Group of Thailand
Government Housing Bank, Thailand
Patricia M. Loui & Chris Loui Schmicker
"In Memory of Udane Tejapaibul" by Vichien Tejapaibul
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Climate Change Awareness the Key to Smart Decision-Making



Eileen Shea

Global warming should be just as much a part of smart planning as the changing seasons, a top government climate researcher told an EWC gathering recently.

But with rare exceptions, few public or private institutions wrap the sobering impact of climate change into their plans — even when their leaders know and

accept the reality of the phenomenon, National Ocean and Aeronautic Administration official Eileen Shea told an international graduate conference at the Center. Shea is director of NOAA's Integrated Data and Environmental Application Center and is chief of the climate services division of the NOAA National Climatic Data Center.

The success of virtually all future human endeavors depends on changing our mindset about global warming so that climate change becomes part of every planning effort, Shea said. “We have to integrate information about climate change into every decision we make.”

“It’s called climate mainstreaming,” Shea said. “And it’s the key.”

Without question, Shea said, such phenomena as the changing seasons are completely integrated into any serious planning effort. Manufacturers know there are times when cold weather gear sells and when to roll out the beach umbrellas and bathing suits. By the same token, government planners anticipate the impact of seasons (and the weather that comes with them) on everything from construction projects to staffing levels.

But that same level of concrete awareness, she argued, is too often missing when it comes to folding climate change awareness — climate mainstreaming — into planning.

While most people accept the reality of global warming, relatively few are aware of the range of effects even moderate climate change can produce, she said.

With just a modest average increase in global temperatures over the next few decades, the world can expect:

- Rain increases in high latitudes and decreases in lower and subtropical land regions. Rain will come in the form of “very heavy” events.
- For the first half of the coming century, precipitation (rain and snow) will increase, followed by 50 years of drought.
- Heat extremes will increase.
- Tropical cyclones will become more intense, increasing risks to coastal communities and small islands.
- Coastal erosion will become more common, leading to a loss of protective coral and mangrove swamps.
- Changing temperatures will lead to an influx of non-native species.

Ironically, Shea said, one of the few places in the world where climate mainstreaming has become the norm is on threatened and vulnerable Pacific islands, where small rises in ocean levels or modest shifts in traditional wind and rain patterns can bring disastrous results.

These small communities plan for and anticipate higher-than-usual tides and water levels. They know that climate cycles will have direct and immediate impact on their lives, so they integrate awareness of climate change into their everyday planning.

Sooner or later, Shea advised, that same thinking must happen globally. “We have to build resilient communities, communities that are aware, engaged, informed, empowered, responsive, prepared, adaptive and sustainable,” she said.

Nowhere is this more immediately obvious than in our use of water, Shea added. “We’re going to feel the impact of global warming on rainfall and water resources long before other impacts. If we don’t solve the water problem, we won’t be able to even think about anything else. So it’s important for us to think about water resources and integrate planning for water resources now, not 20 years from now.”

Asia’s Evolving Role in Global Climate Change



(A free downloadable PDF file of “The Evolving Role of Asia in Global Climate Change,” by Toufiq A. Siddiqi is available at: www.EastWestCenter.org/pubs/2641)

The role of the Asian countries in global climate change has changed enormously since the Kyoto Protocol was signed in 1997, and they can be expected to play a much more active role in any new agreement to address this important global issue, emphasizes Toufiq Siddiqi, EWC Adjunct Senior Fellow.

In an *EWC Insights* publication published in January, Siddiqi noted that four of the 10 countries in the world with the highest carbon dioxide emissions from fossil-fuel use today are located in Asia. China ranks second, but may overtake the United States as the largest emitter by next year. India (fourth), Japan (fifth), and South Korea (seventh) also rank among the top eight emitters.

“While it may be unrealistic to expect countries such as China and India to reduce emissions from their present levels,” he says, “it is clear that the rapid growth of these and other developing countries of Asia require that they play an active part in addressing global climate change concerns.”

Siddiqi proposes that one approach may be for the developing countries to agree not to exceed two tons of carbon emissions per capita by 2025. And that developed countries make a commitment to reduce their emissions to two tons per capita by 2025.

By that time, he believes, “It’s likely that newer technology such as solar photovoltaic and fuel cells will have come down in price substantially, enabling their wider use. All countries could then reduce their per capita emission targets together to reach the levels required to stabilize the world’s climate.”

He acknowledges that because of their current high levels of per capita emissions, “the U.S., Canada and Australia may require a few more years to achieve this level, and a special provision could be made in a new treaty or protocol to permit this, as was the case in the Kyoto Protocol.”

But he advised, “The main objective should be on starting action now, and refining targets later, rather than finding reasons for delay.”

Publications in Review

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Asia Pacific Bulletin (APB), is an online publication produced by the East-West Center in Washington. APB publishes summaries of Congressional Study Groups, conferences, seminars, and visitor roundtables, as well as short articles and opinion pieces. APB summaries are always two pages or less, designed for the busy professional or policymaker to capture the essence of dialogue and debate on issues of concern in U.S.-Asia relations. Free downloadable PDF files of all issues available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/apb.

Pakistan: Between Rocks and Hard Places as Elections Approach, by Toufiq Siddiqi. February 15, 2008

New U.S. Trade Strategies in Southeast Asia, by Barbara Wanner. February 7, 2008

Taiwan's 2008 Legislative Elections: DPP's Pain is U.S. and PRC's Gain, by Denny Roy. January 22, 2008

Gujarat's December 2007 Elections: Implications for Indian Politics, by Arun R. Swamy. January 14, 2008

Lee Myung-Bak's Continuities and Challenges, by J.J. Suh. January 8, 2008

Malaysia's November 2007 Protests: Challenge to Legitimacy, by Bridget Welsh. December 21, 2007

Elections and Democracy in Thailand, by Napisa Waitookiat. December 19, 2007

Kevin Rudd and the U.S. Alliance, by Robert Ayson. December 10, 2007

China's Emergent Political Economy: Capitalism in the Dragon's Lair, edited by Christopher A. McNally. Routledge Studies in the Growth Economies of Asia. London: Routledge, 2007. 288 pp. China's monumental social, economic and political transition is viewed from the same process that catapulted Great Britain, the United States, Germany and Japan to international prominence — the emergence of a capitalist political economy. China's industrial capitalism and

its new multinational corporations, as well as studies of China's changing polity, state-media relations and foreign policy are examined. China is developing a unique form of capitalism. What does capitalism in the dragon's lair imply for our 21st century world? Concluding chapters caution that China's rise is likely to challenge the present world order along both political and economic dimensions. *Cloth, \$170.00. Available from Routledge at www.routledge.com/.*

Population Aging, Intergenerational Transfers and the Macroeconomy, edited by Robert Clark, Naohiro Ogawa, and Andrew Mason. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2007. 320 pp. Population aging is a global phenomenon that influences not only the industrialized countries of Asia and the West, but also many middle- and low-income countries that have experienced rapid fertility decline and achieved long life expectancies. This book

explores how workers and consumers are responding to population aging and examines how economic growth, generational equity, trade and international capital flows are influenced by population aging. Analyses explore the use of tax policy, financial reform and policies targeting immigration and procreation. *Cloth, \$125.00. Available from Edward Elgar Publishing at www.e-elgar.co.uk/.*

Mapping Change in the Asia Pacific Region: Geopolitics, Economics, and Diplomacy, by Benjamin Glahn (rapporteur). Senior Policy Seminar 2007. Honolulu: East-West Center, 2008. ix, 25 pp. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/pubs/2668. The 2007 Senior Policy Seminar focused on a retrospective of the ongoing "tectonic shifts" in various dimensions of power

within the region. The three sub-areas were strategic/geopolitical power, economic power, and the more recently articulated concept of "soft power." The opening and concluding session considered a somewhat broader and more topical range of regional issues including implications and challenges for U.S. policy. *Paper, \$7.50. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.*

Also published:

Reluctant Restraint: The Evolution of China's Nonproliferation Policies and Practices, 1980-2004, by Evan S. Medeiros. Studies in Asian Security. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007. 376 pp. *Cloth, \$65.00. Available from www.sup.org or Chicago Distribution Center, 800.621.2736.*

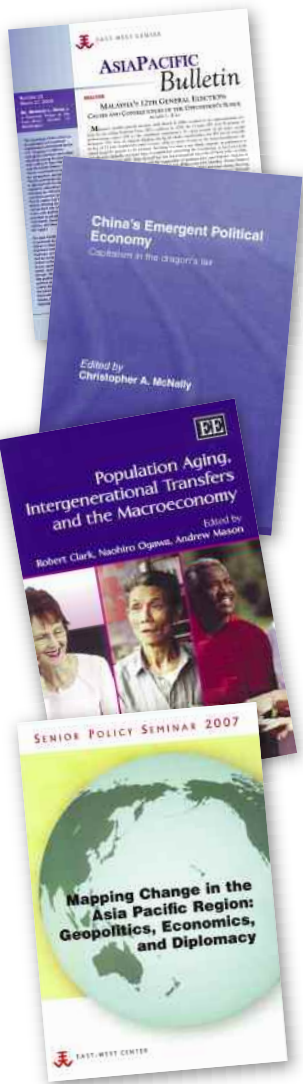
Making Conservation Work: Linking Rural Livelihoods and Protected Area Management in Bangladesh, edited by Jefferson Fox, Bryan R. Bushley, Sugato Dutt, and Shimona A. Quazi. Honolulu: East-West Center; Dhaka: Nishorgo Program of the Bangladesh Forest Department, 2007. 176 pp. Free downloadable PDF files available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/pubs/2552. *Paper. Limited quantity available on a complimentary basis from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.*

Economy of the Conflict Region in Sri Lanka: From Embargo to Repression, by Muttukrishna Sarvanathan. *Policy Studies 44*. Honolulu: East-West Center, 2007. xi, 89 pp. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/pubs/2554. *Paper, \$10.00. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.*

Looking Back, Looking Forward: Centralization, Multiple Conflicts, and Democratic State Building in Nepal, by Mahendra Lawoti. *Policy Studies 43*. Washington, DC: East-West Center Washington, 2007. xi, 93 pp. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/pubs/2553. *Paper, \$10.00. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.*

Conflict and Peace in India's Northeast: The Role of Civil Society, by Samir Kumar Das. *Policy Studies 42*. Washington, DC: East-West Center Washington, 2007. ix, 85 pp. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/pubs/2550. *Paper, \$10.00. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.*

Muslim Perspectives on the Sri Lankan Conflict, by Dennis McGilvray and Mirak Raheem. *Policy Studies 41*. Washington, DC: East-West Center Washington, 2007. ix, 83 pp. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/pubs/2315. *Paper, \$10.00. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.*



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Surin Pitsuwan:

continued from page 1

In addition to tending to its own region, Surin said, a revitalized ASEAN can serve as a fulcrum and balance against other global power centers. These include not only traditional powers such as the U.S., Japan and the European Union, but the rapidly rising economies of India and China.

ASEAN can also provide a leadership role as the globe struggles to find a path to understanding between the Muslim and Western worlds, said Surin, who is himself a Muslim. Half of the population of the region encompassing ASEAN is Muslim and is generally a moderate, progressive and open population that has much to teach to the rest of the world, he said.

“The road to reconciliation between the Muslim and Western world runs through Southeast Asia,” Surin declared.

The 10 nations that make up ASEAN easily have the economic and human potential to be a major player on the world stage, Surin said. But that won’t happen automatically, nor will it happen under an ASEAN as it is now loosely configured, he said.

“As a group of small states, the leaders of ASEAN began thinking: ‘We had better consolidate ourselves and create more attraction among and between ourselves if we wish to remain the core of community-building in this region,’” Surin said. “But to remain in the driver’s seat, ASEAN needs a driver’s license, and that is coming in the form of a charter.”

What a charter — a constitution — does, he said, is set ASEAN on a concrete path to move beyond “dialogue” and consultation to a true leadership role.

One major obstacle to adoption of a charter is concern among some member nations, particularly the Philippines, that the current draft does not make a strong enough statement about the region’s commitment to human rights and democracy. This clearly is aimed at member-state Burma and its military government.

In the best of all possible worlds, Surin said, a strong statement on democracy and the rule of law might make sense.

“But let us begin somewhere,” he said. “We cannot start with a perfect document today and hope every member will sign on to it. We can help people understand the importance of human rights, and we should. But we have to start somewhere.”

Giving up the momentum toward a vibrant charter because of the debate about human rights would be a major loss, he suggested.

“Without a strong center, ASEAN cannot remain the fulcrum of power plays in the region,” Surin said. “It cannot remain in the driver’s seat in political, economic and security affairs.”

“It’s a difficult challenge indeed,” he admitted. “But the alternative is irrelevance and marginalization — we will be left behind, because things all around us are moving and growing very fast.”



ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan addressing journalists in Bangkok.

The Bangkok Media Conference blog site

(<http://forum.eastwestcenter.org/mediaconference/>) contains capsule reports on all the major talks and panel discussions. It also provides links to: downloadable audio files of the major speeches, news stories, Power Point presentations, and even a video of a lively conversation with Apple Daily publisher Jimmy Lai.

Among the highlights from the conference available on the blog site:

■ **Sheila Coronel**, director of the Tony Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism at Columbia University and a pioneering investigative journalist in the Philippines, noted Asia is experiencing a media boom, from an explosion of somewhat more independent newspapers and broadcast outlets to the emergence of completely different forms of information sharing — the “new media.” But with that boom comes creeping homogenization of content, the “dumbing down” of programming and an emphasis on entertainment over public affairs.

■ **Isaac Mao**, co-founder of Beijing’s Social Brain Foundation and co-founder of cnblog.org, one of China’s earliest experiments in grassroots publishing says: Forget the old media. The way the world will communicate and get its news can be found deep in the interconnected and viral blogosphere. While the entire world will change as blogging connects and informs people in new ways, the impact will be particularly vivid in China, where the nation’s 145 million bloggers will simply go around the old media and find their audience a different way.

■ **Dr. Michael T. Osterholm**, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota and a frequent writer on such topics as avian flu and bioterrorism, warned the news media, both in the U.S. and around the world, are “asleep at the switch” when it comes to stories involving some of the biggest threats to human existence ever known. While the media have done lots of immediate reporting on Asian bird flu, bioterrorism and other such issues, it has largely failed to understand the terrifying consequences of such matters, he said.

Notes and Quotes

From
**"The Enduring Appeal
of 'Special Zones'"**
By Jonathan Adams
in the
**Far Eastern
Economic Review**
March 2008

Economists do agree on one thing: (export-processing) zones like Taiwan's aren't a magic bullet for successfully opening up an economy. "For every zone out there that has worked, you have another one — at least — that hasn't worked," says Asian Development Bank economist Jesus Felipe. In Asia, the type of zones that have worked so well in Taiwan, South Korea, China and Vietnam have been less successful in the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia.

"Let's face it: If you create a few square miles of infrastructure of plants and roads, you won't reverse the overall effect of the economy," says Peter Petri, a senior fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu. Experts credit the success of Taiwan's zones to good infrastructure, political stability, the government's commitment to broader liberalization, and strong links between foreign firms inside the zones and domestic ones outside.

From
**"China's Newest Export:
Inflation"**
By Dee DePass
in the
Minneapolis Star-Tribune
March 1, 2008

China isn't so cheap anymore. Over the past decade, U.S. manufacturers have come to rely on inexpensive Chinese labor to help keep costs low, an advantage they passed along to U.S. consumers in the costs of finished products.

Chris McNally, China specialist for the East-West Center in Honolulu, said a massive diet shift toward grain-fed livestock and a recent swine disease "ratcheted up grain and meat prices" in China, which has led to pressure from workers for higher wages.

But inflation has hit China hard in recent months, squeezing margins, forcing price hikes on some products and putting pressure on companies to find new ways to cut costs.

"Factories in China are hit with a triple whammy with higher wages, higher exchange rates as the yuan is up about 15 percent since 2005. The third whammy is transportation costs for those shipping out of China and to the United States," McNally said.

The effects are being felt on a variety of fronts....

From
"The Future Is Fraught"
By Richard Halloran
in the
Straits Times
February 12, 2008

A fresh assessment of Asia's energy future asserts that the region, along with the United States, is being confronted with a 'daunting challenge' as oil consumption is rising much faster than production and the end of the world's oil supply is in sight.

The days of cheap and plentiful oil are over. World oil production is likely to reach a peak some time in the next 10 to 15 years." It will level off and decline after that.

"Today," says a book published by the East-West Center, the research and educational institute in Honolulu, "the challenge of energy security is greater than ever.

The book's principal authors, researchers Fereidun Fesharaki and Kang Wu, warn: "Coupled with emerging supply limitations, the Asia-Pacific region's increasing demand for oil raises fears of tensions among Asian nations and between Asia and the West."

From
**"Newspapers Thriving?
Yes — in Asia"**
By Simon Montlake
in the
**Christian Science
Monitor**
January 24, 2008

Bangkok, Thailand — Soaring circulation. Expanding newsrooms. A growing public hunger for, and appreciation of, a free media. As the ailing U.S. newspaper industry gasps for air, its counterparts in Asia are breathing in the exhilarating oxygen of success. Rising incomes and literacy levels — in an era of growing press freedom, democracy, and private media ownership — have lit a rocket under newsrooms across the region, say newspaper editors, industry analysts, and media executives.

China, India, and Japan, in that order. In 2006, circulation in Asia rose 3.6 percent, compared with a 2 percent fall in North America, according to the World Association of Newspapers. Since 1985, U.S. newspaper sales have fallen more than 30 percent, the Audit Bureau of Circulations reported in 2006.

Seven of the 10 best-selling daily newspapers are in Asia, which also has the three largest markets:

"The media has never been as powerful, or as pervasive, as it is in Asia right now," Sheila Coronel, director of the Stable Center for Investigative Journalism at Columbia University, told a media conference this week organized by the East-West Center, a U.S. government-supported research center in Hawai'i.



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