The independence of journalism in China and shifting power relations in Asia were among the key news and media issues stimulating dialogue at the 2010 International Media Conference in Hong Kong, April 25-28. More than 300 journalists and media experts gathered at the forum, co-sponsored by the EWC’s Asia Pacific Center for Journalists and The University of Hong Kong’s Journalism and Media Studies Centre (JMSC).

Hu Shuli, veteran Chinese journalist, made her first public remarks since her resignation last fall as editor of Caijing, an independent Chinese business magazine known for its critical investigative reporting. Also departing the magazine with her were 140 top editors and staff.

She disagreed with media reports that the end of her tenure was a setback for independent journalism in China and expressed optimism about the future of the press, especially in new electronic formats.

“We chose to leave because we wanted to continue what we had done, not because we wanted to give up,” she said. “We re-gathered and begin a new journey now.”

Since leaving Caijing, Hu founded a new company, Caixin Media. The Beijing-based multimedia company

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More than 300 Attend EWC Media Conference in Hong Kong

For more information, visit: EastWestCenter.org/go.php?68

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Obama’s Foreign Policy: Has America Changed Direction?

President Barack Obama has begun to “change America’s direction abroad,” according to David Sanger, The New York Times’ Chief Washington correspondent, although at present it’s more visible in the Middle East and Europe than in Asia. But that, Sanger said, is sure to change.

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Obama's Foreign Policy: Has America Changed Direction?
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since the president came into office, with some notable exceptions, such as Pakistan. “I think the days are gone when leaders around the world complain that the message from Washington is, ‘It’s our way or the highway,’” Sanger said.

In fact, he said, a paradoxical concern is that America will retreat from global involvement as it focuses more on domestic issues such as health care, the national debt and joblessness. Sanger said domestic economic concerns and the rising U.S. deficit have deep foreign policy significance, especially for Asia.

How well America comes out of the recession could determine how much influence it will wield around the world going forward, particularly in Asia, Sanger said. The growing perception that America is in rapid economic decline is one factor contributing to changes in U.S.-China relations, he believes, along with spreading concern in Congress and at the Pentagon over China’s modernization of its military.

“The Chinese are proving that they have capabilities that in the 1990s the Pentagon thought that were still decades away,” Sanger said, including Chinese efforts in space, development, the growth of its navy and its emerging cyber war strategy.

Sanger said China has a “puncture strategy” where it does not want direct military engagement with the U.S., but instead is developing various technologies that will punch holes in America’s dominance of the region. He noted a decreased U.S. interest in the kinds of military-to-military exchanges that have involved China and the Honolulu-based U.S. Pacific Command.

Reflecting on the Bush administration’s idea of using India as a counterweight to China, Sanger said it didn’t work out very well. “Yes, the Indians don’t particularly like the Chinese, but they don’t especially want to partner with the U.S. either,” he said, adding that the U.S. relationship with India is one that Obama needs to tend to.

Even dealing with Japan has become “something of a headache” for America, Sanger said, with recent political changes in Tokyo and a strong play by China to improve its relations with Japan. On the other hand, he said, relations with South Korean leaders have been much better than in the Bush administration.

Sanger described U.S. relations with Indonesia, where Obama spent some of his childhood, as “the great quiet American diplomatic success story.” He said the president has an opportunity to develop deeper relations with Indonesia than at any other moment in the past 30 years. Success, he said, would enhance America’s stature in Asia as well as demonstrate U.S. ability to work with a country that has the world’s largest Muslim population.
Golden Jubilee Conference Marks EWC’s 50th Anniversary

An estimated 800 Asia Pacific and U.S. scholars, officials, educators, business leaders and other professionals — most of them alumni of East-West Center programs — are expected at the Center’s 50th Anniversary International Conference at the Hawai‘i Convention Center, July 2 to 5.

The gathering of alumni from more than 35 countries is an opportunity to reunite, renew friendships and reminisce. The International Conference, with the theme of “Leadership and Community Building in the Asia Pacific Region,” will feature panel discussions with alumni sharing expertise on key regional issues, including climate change, U.S. foreign policy, education issues and governance challenges.

Nearly 60,000 people have participated in EWC programs since the Center welcomed its first students 50 years ago. “In cities throughout the region, alumni have organized programs to celebrate the Center’s Golden Jubilee year, building toward the EWCA Conference in Honolulu,” said EWC Alumni Director Gordon Ring. “The alumni coming from near and far for the conference affirm the strength of a true Asia Pacific community.”

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye is to be honored with the EWCA Makana Award for his life-long dedication to the Center’s mission as one of its founding fathers, and for the role he’s played in promoting understanding and better relations between the U.S. and Asia Pacific region throughout his career.

The conference is presented by the East-West Center and the East-West Center Association.

ASEAN Matters for America: Online Analysis of Trade Relations

A new interactive website tracking ASEAN’s importance to the United States, and the United States’ importance to ASEAN, was launched by the East-West Center in Washington and the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) this spring.

The ASEAN Matters for America/America Matters for ASEAN project provides accessible user-friendly analysis and visual graphics — key quantitative and qualitative data — which will be updated periodically. It explores the important connections between the 10 members of ASEAN and the individual states in the U.S., providing opportunities to enhance and build on the existing engagement.

On the website, for example, are charts and data for exports to ASEAN by U.S. states, GDP of ASEAN countries and a listing of sister-city relationships between cities in the U.S. and ASEAN countries.

In early June the project was formally introduced at a program at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta by Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan and EWC Washington Director Satu Limaye. “Evidently, there is willingness by the U.S. to re-engage ASEAN, which serves as a solid foundation of cooperation between us,” Surin said, in his welcoming remarks.

“This project is another sign of such interest and I am pleased to note that the project is one that can directly benefit and reach the grass-roots level — the people,” he added. “They will, after all, be the new players, the ones keeping the ASEAN-U.S. relations warm and strong.”

ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan and EWC Washington Director Satu Limaye.

Limaye noted, “The ASEAN Matters for America brochure and interactive website provide easily usable and understandable resources to comprehend the growing importance of this region and organization. Today ASEAN member countries combined account for the third largest GDP in Asia, the 5th largest U.S. export market in the world — the third largest in Asia after China and Japan, and the most important destination for overall U.S. foreign direct investment in the region. Southeast Asia and ASEAN truly matter for America.”

ASEAN Matters for America was initially launched in Washington D.C. in April and in Singapore at ISEAS, where Limaye shared details of the project and its parent, Asia Matters for America which covers a comprehensive scope spanning South and East Asia.
Supporting the Center
Recent Grants and Contracts

Research
Korea Development Institute
$190,000

Research/Economics
Korea Energy Economics Institute
$178,890
Korea Transport Institute
$81,081

Research/Politics & Security
Open Society Justice Initiative
$10,000
U.S. Agency for International Development/Nathan Associates Inc
$37,413

Research/Population & Health
International Development Research Centre
$98,717
Korean Women’s Development Institute
$20,509
Nihon University Population Research Institute
$102,000
UN Population Fund
$110,000
UN Programme on AIDS
$601,530
U.S. Agency for International Development/Family Health International
$98,175

Research/Environment
U.S. Department of Commerce/Research Corp. of the UH
$39,070

Education
EWC Foundation/Hawaii Pacific Rim Society
$60,000
U.S. Department of Education
$88,200
U.S. Department of State
$239,594

Seminars
Freeman Foundation
$265,000
The Nature Conservancy
$155,000
U.S. Department of the Interior
$207,711

External Affairs
EWC Foundation/Friends of Hawaii Charities
$10,000

News in Brief

EWC Students Celebrate ‘Connecting Diversities’
The annual East-West Fest celebrated “connecting diversities” and the EWC’s 50th anniversary, at the Hawai’i Iimin International Conference Center on April 10th. Students from throughout the Asia Pacific region — many dressed in colorful national attire — headlined cultural performances, activities and displays at the event, sponsored by the EWC Participants Association. Highlights included dances and songs from Bangladesh, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Nepal, Italy, Iran, Pacific Islands, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and the U.S.

Made Widana from Bali performs a traditional Balinese dance at this year’s East-West Fest.

U.N. Democracy Fund Awards $225,000 for Pakistan Governance Project
The United Nations Democracy Fund awarded the Center $225,000 to help strengthen Pakistan’s recently restored democracy. The project will reinforce electoral and parliamentary processes and enhance civil society’s capacity to promote accountability and transparency.

“Pakistan is a Muslim country of 164 million people and a nuclear power,” said project leader Shabbir Cheema, director of the EWC Asia Pacific Governance and Democracy Initiative. “But a weak Parliament, lack of trust in electoral processes and weak civil society institutions has constrained the deepening and consolidation of democracy in the country.”

The Pakistan project will be implemented in partnership with a network of institutions in Pakistan led by the Pakistan Institute for Legislative Development and Transparency.

Students throughout Hawai’i were introduced to Bengali folk music.

Spring Arts Programs Showcase Traditions of Asia and the Pacific
“The Golden Ceremony: Weddings in Asia,” an exhibition of costumes, ritual objects, dowry items and artifacts representing the wedding traditions of Southeast Asia, East Asia, South Asia and Central Asia, were on display at the East-West Center Gallery, April 11 through June 13. The exhibition, which included cultural presentations, demonstrations and films, was one of several EWC Arts Programs this spring that marked the EWC’s 50th anniversary.

In April Kabu ni Vanua, one of the most accomplished and celebrated traditional music and dance ensembles in Fiji, spent an 11-day residency at the East-West Center. The performers presented concerts and educational performance-demonstrations, to audiences of more than 9,300 people during its tour of Hawai’i.

In May musicians and performers from the Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts in Chittagong introduced the rich traditions of Bengali folk music to Hawai’i audiences. Close to 3,000 people attended concerts and educational demonstrations, including a performance at the East-West Center.
President Obama is eager to seize the opportunity presented by the U.S. hosting of the APEC 2011 forum to demonstrate America’s commitment to playing a stronger and more constructive role in the region, said U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk.

Kirk described APEC 2011 as a potential “watershed moment” in U.S. economic engagement in the Asia Pacific, in a keynote address at the U.S. Asia Pacific Council (USAPC) annual conference in early May in Washington, D.C. He promised a “bold and ambitious” approach aimed at advancing key non-tariff barriers to trade and investment issues; facilitating cheaper, easier and faster trade in the region; and promoting trade and investment in environmental goods and services.

In keeping with the theme of the day-long conference — “U.S.-Asia Pacific Relations: Transitions in a New Era” — Kirk highlighted work underway to conclude a new 21st century “gold standard” trade accord with seven Asia Pacific countries. In negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), “we hope to build what will become the largest, most dynamic trade collaboration of our time,” which ultimately would create and retain U.S. jobs, integrate U.S. companies in regional production and supply chains, and promote new technologies and emerging sectors, he said.

C. Fred Bergsten, director of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, who participated in a panel discussion about the U.S.-Asia trade agenda, concurred that the TPP should be at the heart of U.S. trade policy for both economic and geopolitical reasons. “If we stand aside on trade in Asia, China will step in and shut the United States out,” he warned.

However, Bergsten and fellow panelist Edward Alden of the Council on Foreign Relations questioned the wisdom of making the TPP a “gold standard” agreement. By insisting on such high standards, Washington will have to try and include politically sensitive provisions covering agricultural trade and labor and environmental standards that could be deal-breakers, they said. Bergsten proposed that the Obama administration use the solid, but less politically contentious U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement as a model for the TPP.

Conference speakers and panels also delved into such topics as the U.S. Congress and China; prospects for balanced, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Asia Pacific region; U.S. alliances and partnership in the region; and use of the internet to facilitate political activism and development of civil society.

(The USAPC, founded by the East-West Center in 2003, is a non-partisan organization composed of prominent American experts and opinion leaders whose aim is to promote and facilitate greater U.S. engagement with the Asia Pacific region.)

Student leaders from Burma, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand attended an innovative environmental leadership program at the East-West Center in late May. The five-week institute for young leaders addresses global environmental issues and is designed to foster a greater understanding of sustainability in the U.S. and aid in the development of more resilient communities in their home countries.

Sessions focused on three key areas: developing sustainable systems for natural resource and agricultural management; food, energy and water security; and ecotourism.

The program was hosted by the EWC with funding from the Study of the U.S. Branch in the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
Q&A WITH: Toufiq Siddiqi

On the Impasse Over Climate Change

Q: The Copenhagen Conference last December failed to produce an international climate change treaty. What needs to be addressed to reach an accord?

A: The basic issues are those dealing with fairness and justice. Examples of these are:

- Do people in all countries have the right to achieve the same quality of life as that enjoyed by people in most of Europe, North America, Japan and Australia?
- Can the developing countries be expected to limit greenhouse gas emissions from energy use and land use changes even when many of them might live reasonably well, but where millions of people, particularly in rural areas, live in poverty?
- Can people in developed countries today, and their elected representatives, be expected to accept responsibility for the emissions from their countries during past generations, and curtail their own resource use for the future benefit of the entire world?

Another way of looking at these questions is to say that they deal with issues of equity between countries, within countries, and between generations.

Q: What role should the United States play in reaching a new agreement?

A: In my view, the most important role that the U.S. could play is to pass its own legislation mandating emission reductions. In the short term, emission reductions mean using less coal and oil. Many of the coal-producing states, such as Kentucky, West Virginia and Wyoming, are heavily dependent on coal to provide employment and maintain their economies. It will be difficult to persuade their elected representatives to support a bill unless we can find suitable alternative employment or carbon capture technologies become economically viable.

Q: China has overtaken the U.S. as the top emitter of greenhouse gases. The Chinese have stated a goal of reducing current levels by 40 to 45 percent by 2020. How does China plan to do this?

A: China did not offer to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by 40 to 45 percent but to reduce its carbon intensity (defined as emissions per unit of GDP) by that amount by 2020 compared to its current levels. It plans to achieve this by improving energy efficiency and greatly increasing its use of nuclear- and hydro-power, and other renewable forms of energy.

China already leads the world in terms of total electrical capacity from renewable sources, and for solar hot water as well as for small-scale hydropower. It also ranks fourth in the world (as of 2008) in wind power.

Q: You believe limiting carbon emissions will be easier for India, which ranks fourth among the top emitters. Why is that?

A: India may rank fourth, but its per capita emissions are only about 6 percent of those of the U.S. and about one-quarter of those of China. If a global emission reduction agreement is reached that considers per capita emissions, then India’s task will be easier since it will be starting from a lower base, and may not have to reduce emissions at all for many more years.

Q: Politicians are reluctant to sacrifice jobs for climate protection measures, no matter how beneficial this will be in the long-term. Do you have any suggestions about how to encourage policy change?

A: It is very important to create “green” jobs, as the current U.S. Administration is attempting to do. These jobs could be in the sectors of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency in homes and offices, and in providing better infrastructure. A number of states are way ahead of the federal government in this regard, and have initiated policies and programs to reduce emissions.

Already there is good news on the renewable energy front. In 2008, the U.S. became the top producer of total wind power capacity, as well as in the capacity added during that year. Also the U.S. added more electric power capacity that year from renewable energy than from coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear.

The Obama administration is proposing to accelerate the development of renewable energy technologies and efficiency improvement measures.

Education also has to play an important role. Many people remain skeptical that climate change is real, we need to assure them that it is not only real but the longer we delay taking action, the more drastic the measures their children and grandchildren will be required to take.

Q: What are the chances a new agreement can be reached by 2012, to replace the Kyoto Protocol?

A: The chances of having a new agreement are high. The main question is how strong and effective it will be in meeting the goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius, which many consider an essential limit beyond which changes in the world’s climate could result in very large and drastic impacts on society and ecosystems.
In an increasingly urban world, many mayors of today's cities are moving beyond municipal roles to become global actors. At a recent EWC program, leaders of four Asia Pacific cities shared ways the world's major metropolises affect and are affected by global issues.

The mayors spoke at the Center's second “Urban Asia” forum for leaders and experts from Asian and U.S. cities to exchange strategies for managing urban growth. The vice mayor of the rapidly growing Chinese city of Shenzhen and the deputy mayor of Taipei shared the stage with the governor of Jakarta, and the mayor of Honolulu.

More than ever, they agreed, leaders of the world's expanding cities are playing a bigger role in global social and environmental issues. Each of the leaders cited participation in international forums and sister-city relationships as important connections for the global roles they play, both in learning about and sharing ways of dealing with issues.

Shenzhen Vice Mayor Tang Jie said his southern Chinese city, as part of a special economic zone, plays a leading role in moving from a central planning system to a more location-sensitive approach. Shenzhen officials have been meeting regularly with more than 30 sister cities around the world and addressing global issues such as climate change and environmental sustainability, he said.

"Now we use more solar and more wind power in our city," Tang said, "and we promote a lot of measures to induce industries that use a lot of energy to move out, and induce new industries to save energy."

Tang outlined programs that will change all the city's street lights to low-energy bulbs, use new materials and designs to lower emissions, adjust temperatures in all work places, and use more solar and wind power to run the city.

"Every month, we send out a notice of how much you spend for electricity," Lin said. "If you have saved more than 10 percent, you have saved money, of course. Not only that, you qualify for the lottery."

He said Taipei has shared its experience coping with natural disasters with other major cities and contributed to disaster relief efforts in China and elsewhere.

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann said his city has sought to enhance its global role with efforts to build infrastructure, reduce crime, promote health, address hunger, combat homelessness, host global conferences and establish links to other Pacific islands.

Gov. Fauzi Bowo of Jakarta said it was important for city leaders to help build better communication among people and nations. He noted that Jakarta is a member of the C40 group of the world’s biggest cities working together to address problems related to climate change.

"The active role performed by the local governments of major cities is very crucial (to help meet) the global challenges that we face."
You Can Help Celebrate Our 50th Year!

The success of the East-West Center is a remarkably successful public-private partnership. In the early years, funding came almost exclusively from the U.S. government. Today the Center relies on essential support from individuals, private agencies, foundations, and corporations. These private gifts fund strategic opportunities while also helping to ensure that public support continues to cover the Center’s basic operating expenses. They make it possible for the Center to provide student scholarships, and continue to build outstanding leadership, education and exchange programs.

Because the Center’s U.S. Congressional appropriation covers most of the Center’s basic operating costs, your contribution goes directly to fund scholarships and other important programs that would not exist without private support. All gifts, large or small, are important, but your participation in this, our 50th year, is most important of all!

50th Founders Society
On the occasion of the East-West Center’s 50th Anniversary, President Charles Morrison has created the 50th Founders Society to honor and permanently recognize those who have contributed $50,000 or more to the Center since its founding in 1960. Donors can qualify for the Society through cumulative giving, and pledges of $50,000 over as many as 5 years can count, as long as at least $20,000 is received before December 2011. (In-kind contributions and bequest intentions are always welcome, but not included in the $50,000 needed to qualify.)

Benefits to members of the 50th Founders Society include:

- Permanent recognition in a prominent location on the East-West Center campus
- On-going recognition in the East-West Center’s quarterly newsletter, annual report and website
- Special 50th Founders medallion
- Exclusive gift commemorating the East-West Center’s 50th Anniversary
- Invitations to special events

With the knowledge, networks and partnerships gained over its first fifty years, the East-West Center is poised to play a leading role in identifying and responding to the enormous economic, environmental and human challenges faced throughout the Asia Pacific Region now and in the future. The 50th Founders have been, and will continue to be, particularly instrumental in making this possible.

Programs

AsiaPacific Breakfast Briefing at Bank of Hawaii

*February 16, 2010:* EWC President Charles Morrison provided a broad perspective on the issues and challenges facing the region in his talk, “Asia-Pacific 2010: A Discussion of Regional Issues of Importance to U.S. Policy.”

*April 13, 2010:* Gerard Finin, Deputy Director of the EWC Pacific Islands Development Program and Senior Fellow, explained why the entire Pacific Islands region remains highly important to the U.S. for both strategic and economic reasons in his talk, “The Obama Administration’s Deepening Engagement in Oceania.”

Arts ‘Ohana

*January 26, 2010:* Guest Curator and anthropologist Emiko Stock of Phnom Penh presented a lecture and slideshow on the Cham in Cambodia during the exhibition, “Cham: Syncretic Islamic Communities in Vietnam and Cambodia.”

*April 13, 2010:* During the exhibition, “The Golden Ceremony: Weddings in Asia,” members and guests were treated to a Korean dance by children from the Halla Huhm Korean Dance Studio, a description of Balinese wedding customs by Anna Reynolds, and an exhibition overview by curator Michael Schuster. The corporate sponsor of the exhibition is Gladys Agsalud of Casablanca Bridal and Formals.

First Hawaiian Bank Lecture

*February 11, 2010:* C.H. Tung, former Hong Kong Chief Executive, delivered the keynote address at the EWC International Graduate Student Conference. He discussed the many transnational challenges in the Asia Pacific region in his talk, “Sino-U.S. Relations: Building Mutual Trust.”

Estate and Charitable Planning in 2010 Seminar

*May 6, 2010:* Twenty-one people attended the seminar by Stephen Reese, Esq. who presented an overview of estate planning concepts, problems caused by the changing estate tax law, and how taxpayers can use charitable gifts to their advantage.

*Charles Morrison, Gladys Agsalud of Casablanca Bridal and Formals, Arts ‘Ohana Chair Jean Ariyoshi and Puongpun Sananikone.*
You Can Create Your Own Fund
For gifts of $25,000 or more, the EWC can set up separately managed funds. Gifts of $50,000 or more qualify as Permanent Named Endowments. No fees are charged so that all revenues can go directly to the beneficiaries.

Below are stories from some of the increasing number of alumni and EWC staff who are making a difference in students’ lives while also enjoying the connections they make through their generosity.

Dennis C. Zvinakis Awards
The Zvinakis family and friends established the Dennis C. Zvinakis Awards to help fill the gap for deserving students from Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and the United States who need a modest but essential financial boost to be able to accept grants offered by the Center.

Fesharaki Scholarship Fund
East-West Center Senior Fellow and prominent energy market analyst Fereidun Fesharaki has established a fund to help Iranian and other participants attend the East-West Center’s AsiaPacific Leadership Program (APLP). The Fesharaki Scholarship Fund will be used to fund awards of at least $1,000 per year for one or more students, with a preference for but not limited to Iranian students from Iran or elsewhere outside the United States. Awards will be granted based on financial need, leadership experience, educational achievement, and funding availability.

Buddy & Melga Torre Gendrano Fellowships
Buddy and Melga Gendrano created the Buddy & Melga Torre Gendrano Fellowships as a $50,000 Permanent Named Endowment. Awards will assist Degree Fellows or APLP participants from the Philippines or Hawai‘i with preference given to those with a past record and intention of future involvement in the fields of education and/or agriculture.

Sumi Makey Scholars Awards
Sumi Makey, former EWC Dean of Student Affairs and Open Grants, established a $100,000 scholarship endowment. The Sumi Makey Awards will benefit worthy degree candidates who have a background and interest in the arts and humanities, with a preference for women from S.E. Asia.

EWCA Alumni Scholarship Fund
Each year many qualified students need a financial boost in order to benefit from the East-West Center experience. Thanks to the generosity of alumni donors, the EWC Association Alumni Scholarship Fund has been able to distribute more than $150,000 so that 47 students from 16 countries could participate in EWC education programs.

In appreciation for your generosity, the following gifts are available for your donation (while supplies last):

- $50 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) carry-on bag and EWC luggage tag
- $100 50th Anniversary bag
- $250 50th Anniversary pen
- $500 50th Anniversary Silver Pin and business card holder
- $1,000+ 50th Anniversary Gold Pin and flash drive (4 G)

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift by check or credit card or contribute online by using our secure website service:
EastWestCenter.org/donatenow
Donors

On behalf of the East-West Center, we would like to thank all those who have generously contributed to the East-West Center Foundation between September 1, 2009 and May 31, 2010.

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 Elizabeth Kuioka in the EWC Foundation office at 808-944-7105.

It’s easy to donate online using our secure website service: EastWestCenter.org/donatenow

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