Pacific island leaders and East-West Center officials met with President George W. Bush in Honolulu in a private session during the U.S. leader’s 12-hour stopover in Hawai‘i on October 23.

The Pacific island leaders were in Hawai‘i for the 7th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders at the East-West Center. Bush was enroute to Washington from Asia. Also present at the meeting were U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly and other senior White House staff members.

Prince ‘Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, prime minister of Tonga and conference chair, said the meeting strengthened relationships with the United States. “Big countries need friends just as much as small countries do,” he said.

The leaders of 14 Pacific island governments discussed security issues with Bush, who assured them the United States would share intelligence about the region to help the nations meet their own security needs. They also talked about the environment, coral reefs and the rising sea level, economic security and education for Pacific Islanders.

EWC President Charles E. Morrison said Bush stressed that he went to the meeting to listen to the leaders’ ideas and concerns. Morrison noted the significance of the meeting, because Pacific island leaders don’t often have access to the highest levels of U.S. leadership. “This was really a statement by a U.S. president about his interest in the region,” Morrison said. “He wanted to know what the United States can do better.”

The last meeting between a U.S. president and Pacific island leaders occurred in 1990, when leaders met with President George Bush Sr. That meeting also was hosted by the East-West Center.

At this year’s conference, Pacific island leaders also met with Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command. In discussions with Bush and earlier with Fargo, the leaders asked for assistance to their countries, states or territories.

Republic of the Marshall Islands President Kessai Note asked Bush to expedite the country’s renegotiated Compact of Free Association with the U.S. “It is my

Nuclear North Korea as Challenge to Japan Foreign Policy, Security Issues

The threat of a nuclear North Korea is raising questions in Japan about its post-war foreign policy and the U.S.-Japan alliance, observes Sheila Smith, an East-West Center specialist on Japanese politics and foreign policy and regional security issues. “We’re in uncharted territory,” she said. “What we’re looking at today is a very keen awareness on the part of the Japanese public, as well as Japanese key political leaders, of whether or not Washington is acting in Japan’s interests.”

Smith spoke at an AsiaPacific Breakfast Briefing, sponsored by Bank of Hawaii, in September. In her presentation she also commented on the significance of the then just completed six-party talks in Beijing, attended by representatives from the United States, North Korea, China, Russia, South Korea and Japan.
President Bush Meets with Pacific Island Leaders

continued from page 1

hope that our two governments can pull together now to ensure that this success is sustained for the next 20 years and beyond,” Note told Bush.

U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Governor Juan Babauta spoke of environmental concerns and the need for an expanded federal program to study and protect coral reefs.

Aitofele Sunia, lieutenant governor of American Samoa, suggested the U.S. territory could share its expertise in airport security with its Pacific island neighbors.

However, after the meeting, many of the leaders were concerned about how they would comply with Bush’s request to beef up airport security and border patrols. “Those airport screening machines are expensive,” said M. Young Vivian, president of Niue. “And how can we build a security fence around our airport?”

Sitiveni Halapua, director of the EWC’s Pacific Islands Development Program, which is also the secretariat for the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, said the problems the countries face represent “a new level of maturity,” after several decades of independence from colonial rule.

“Now we have Pacific islanders reasserting themselves and dealing with the differences and the difficulties they did not have before,” he said. “With maturity, comes more differences. Now we have Pacific island political leaders, private entrepreneurs and educators debating the differences and trying to move forward.”

The next Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders will be in 2006.

President Bush met with the following leaders:
- Hawai‘ Governor Linda Lingle
- Tonga Prime Minister Prince ‘Ulukalala Lavaka Ata
- Palau President Tommy Remengesau
- Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Governor Juan Babauta
- Niue President M. Young Vivian
- New Caledonia Minister of Education Leopold Joredie
- Papua New Guinea Minister of Foreign Affairs Rabbie Namaliu
- Samoa Cabinet Minister Tuala Sale Tagaloa
- Solomon Islands Prime Minister Allan Kemakeza
- American Samoa Lt. Governor Aitofele Sunia
- Federated States of Micronesia President Joseph Ursemal
- Fiji Minister of Foreign Affairs Kaliopate Tavola
- Guam Governor Felix Camacho
- Republic of Marshall Islands President Kessai Note

Nuclear North Korea as Challenge to Japan Policy

continued from page 1

“I think the six-party talks were very successful, primarily because they used this multilateral framework,” Smith said. “In the hallways there were major bilateral conversations — most important from my perspective — between North Korea and Japan, North Korea and the United States, North Korea and China. Everyone was talking outside the big room.”

With China hosting the talks, the meeting signified “a different ballgame in terms of a regional response to North Korea’s nuclear proliferation,” Smith said. “What we’re seeing here is a foundation for a negotiation and framework for thinking about Northeast Asian security in the future. Can these major powers set up an agenda or at least a framework for thinking about common security concerns?”

Within Japan, Smith believes, the threat posed by North Korea’s nuclear capabilities comes at a time when the Japanese public is beginning to see the limitations of their post-war foreign policy. At the same time, she notes the Bush Administration is paying attention to these concerns. As a result, the United States was “adamant” about Japan participating in the six-party talks.

In addition, the relationship between President George Bush and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is usually referred to as a “close personal relationship as well as a close working relationship when it comes to security policy,” she said. “The U.S.-Japan military-to-military relationship is very strong.”

For the most part, the Japanese public wants to see the same kind of outcome as the governments in Washington and Japan but, Smith cautioned, there are hints of possible trouble outside the security planning community. “In the public at large in Japan, there is a new voice in this debate,” she said. “It is a younger, more pragmatic and more conservative voice.”

To the Japanese public, North Korea exacerbates a sense of vulnerability and a concern that “Japan’s government is not doing the right thing,” she said. “It’s a tentative time for the Japanese public about Japan’s international role and its place in Asia. It creates a mood and debate in Japan that can be manipulated.”

North Korea’s behavior propelled to the forefront undercurrents in Japan that already existed, she suggested. “We’re seeing a much more mainstream voice that’s calling for Japan to stand up a little bit more, to take a more assertive foreign policy line, particularly vis a vis Pyongyang.

“And there’s a more mainstream recognition that the (Japanese) constitution may not have served Japan’s security interests. That the U.S.-Japan alliance needs to be watched to see if it meets Japan’s security interests.”
The East-West Center’s student enrollment increased to 360 this year, more than double the number of students five years ago. This fall, the East-West Center welcomed 117 students to various student programs. Of that number, 55 students will participate in the Asia Pacific Leadership Program and 62 are new degree students.

New and innovative programs, increased private funding and cost-sharing by students have contributed to this growth, with the U.S. Congress currently providing one-third of the financial support for scholarships.

The Center now supports 11 scholarship programs in addition to graduate degree fellowships. Students come from 31 Asian and Pacific island nations, as well as the United States.

This fall the East-West Center welcomed four Asian scholars of Islam as visiting fellows and a group of senior Asian and American journalists to discuss U.S.-Islam relations in the post 9/11 period. These activities launched an EWC initiative to promote better understanding of Islam in the Asia Pacific region and to improve communication between the region’s Islamic communities and the West.

“In the aftermath of September 11, questions about relations between Muslims around the world and the United States have gained new prominence,” said Richard Baker, coordinator of the initiative’s scholar program. “The Center’s time-tested approach of bringing people together in a neutral setting to share views and explore issues, with the objective of building a base of longer-term relationships and understanding, is perfectly suited to addressing some of these important and topical issues.”

In September, the EWC Senior Journalists’ Seminar focused on issues of significance to the United States and Asian countries with substantial Muslim populations. Participating in the dialogue at the Center were 17 journalists, from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and the United States. Topics of discussion included Islam, before and after 9/11; U.S. foreign policy and the Islamic world; and the politics of the Middle East and relations between Asians and Americans.

The visiting scholars, who conducted research and participated in various programs at the Center between August and October, were:

- Aslam Syed, history professor at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, an influential media commentator and adviser to Pakistan presidents. He specializes in the Muslim response to the West, and Islam and democracy.
- Ala’i Nadjib, voter education officer and cybermedia editor in the education and training institute of Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia’s largest Islamic social organization. Her area of interest is Islamic law and her current research focuses on Muslim women’s movements.
- Patricia A. Martinez, senior research fellow at the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya. Martinez is a specialist on the subject of Malaysian women in post-colonial Islam. After her fellowship at the Center, she will be studying at Stanford and Ohio universities on a Fulbright fellowship.
- Syafiq Hasyim, director of an Islamic education and research foundation in Jakarta. He is the author of several books and interested in the response of Islamic parties to democracy, human rights and good governance.

Two other EWC programs, the New Generation Seminar and Women’s Leadership Program, included additional participants from countries with majority Muslim populations.
News in Brief

Supporting the Center

RECENT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Research/PDC

$20,000
Research Corporation of the UH/ UH Hawai‘i Institute of Geophysics & Planetology

Research/Economics

$80,000
U.S.-ASEAN Business Council

Research/Politics & Security

$61,395
Government of Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

$83,490
Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission

$61,242
Ship & Ocean Foundation

Research/Population & Health

$113,356
UN Programme on AIDS

$191,048
National Institutes of Health

Research/Environment

$7,411
International Development Research Centre/York University

$900,000
National Aeronautics & Space Administration

$509,795
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Education

$190,000
Korea Development Institute

$179,662
National Endowment for Humanities

EWC Board Elects New Chair

Roland Lagareta was elected chairman by the East-West Center Board of Governors at its quarterly meeting in November. Miriam Hellreich was named vice chair.

Lagareta, an associate at Morgan Stanley, is also vice president of the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council in Honolulu. Hellreich, a speech pathologist, currently serves as Hawai‘i’s Republican National Committee woman and is a member of the RNC’s Executive Committee.

Patricia Saiki, former Hawai‘i congresswoman and U.S. Small Business administrator, was elected chair of the EWC board’s Executive Committee.

250 EWC Alumni Gather for ’60s Reunion

In November, some 250 EWC alumni from Hawai‘i and 21 Asia Pacific nations who studied at the Center in the 1960s gathered for a five-day conference in Honolulu. Alumni from these “pioneer” years at the Center were joined by government officials from Washington and Hawai‘i, senior EWC staff and members of the EWC Board of Governors.

Patricia Harrison, assistant secretary of state for educational and cultural affairs at the U.S. State Department, gave the keynote address. “As we look at our world today, it is clear that more than ever, it is important for people of good will, alumni of all of our exchange programs worldwide, to utilize this accumulated wisdom and experience to increase mutual understanding, mutual respect between people of different countries, different ethnicities, different faiths on a global level,” she said.

“As 1960s alumni, you are the East-West Center first participants — ‘pioneers in interchange,’” said EWC President Charles E. Morrison. “You collectively have led new countries to independence. You have created businesses and NGOs (non-government organizations). You have served as mayors, governors, legislators and cabinet ministers. As diplomats, you represented your nations and negotiated agreements. You have served as mayors, governors, legislators and cabinet ministers. As diplomats, you represented your nations and negotiated agreements. You have created great and enduring works of art — buildings, sculptures and paintings, and literature.”

Contributions totaling more than $225,000 were donated by alumni for the 1960s Alumni Endowment Fund for student scholarships.

Exhibit Commemorates Opening of Japan to West

“Facing ‘East,’ Facing ‘West,’” an exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of Commodore Matthew Perry’s 1853 journey to Japan, was on display in the EWC Gallery in Burns Hall, November 30 to December 7.

The exhibit was created by Massachusetts Institute of Technology professors John Dower and Shigeru Miyagawa. Dower won the Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for “Embracing Defeat,” a study of post-World War II Japan. The professors juxtaposed Japanese graphics depicting Perry’s arrival with images depicting the encounter through American eyes.

In Hawai‘i, the EWC Arts Program and Japan-America Institute of Management Science (JAIMS) were co-presenters.

Talk Addresses Rebuilding East Timor

Kirsty Sword Gusmao, first lady of East Timor, spoke on “The Challenges of Rebuilding the World’s Newest Nation” at a program at the Center in November. The program was sponsored by the East-West Center, Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Hawai‘i, and Pacific and Asian Affairs Council.

“Dealing with diverse players and sometimes conflicting visions is a challenge,” Gusmao said. “We’re on a sharp learning curve as civil society is called on to play a role in rebuilding East Timor.”

Gusmao is founder of the Alola Foundation, which works to improve the conditions of East Timorese women and their families. She recently published a book, “A Woman of Independence: A Story of Love and the Birth of a New Nation.”

Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Harrison with student “ambassadors” during Hawai‘i International Education Week.

Hawai‘i International Education Week at EWC

Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Harrison spoke to more than 300 students attending a program at the East-West Center celebrating the 4th Hawai‘i International Education Week, Nov. 17-21.

“Hawai‘i is the No. 1 state for International Education Week activities,” Harrison said, proclaiming the students “honorary ambassadors.” “I can’t think of better people than you in Hawai‘i to serve as ambassadors of the world.”

Hawai‘i has been at the forefront of the states in organizing global learning activities since the U.S. Departments of State and Education proclaimed International Education Week four years ago.

Hawai‘i activities included workshops led by students as well as recognition of Hawai‘i’s top global educators. The East-West Center and 12 Hawai‘i organizations were co-sponsors.

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U.S. Ambassador on U.S.-Malaysia Relations After Mahathir

With new Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi at the helm, Malaysia can do much to advance peace and stability in Southeast Asia, suggests Marie Huhtala, U.S. ambassador to Malaysia. “I feel a real opportunity to advance the U.S.-Malaysia relationship,” she added. “If the Malaysian side is willing, we can certainly move forward in a number of new areas.”

Huhtala discussed “Malaysia After Mahathir” at an AsiaPacific Breakfast Briefing, sponsored by Bank of Hawaii, in November.

Abdullah succeeds Mahathir Mohamed, who served 16 years as prime minister and whose final months in office were characterized by a series of speeches highly critical of the United States and the West. “It left U.S.-Malaysian relations very much on edge,” Huhtala said, “a problem he has left for his successor to deal with.”

Yet Huhtala noted, “Despite the inclement rhetoric of the past few months and the very real policy differences we’ve had on Iraq and the Middle East, we’ve never lost sight of the fundamentals of a solid bilateral relationship. The question now is how this relationship will develop under Prime Minister Abdullah.”

Among the positive aspects of relations between the two countries, Huhtala said, are “excellent cooperation on counterterrorism efforts.” Malaysia has established a new Southeast Asian regional center for counterterrorism, a training center to assist all governments in the region. “The United States plans to offer significant assistance to that center,” she said.

Malaysia and the United States also have good military to military ties and mutually beneficial economic relations, with especially strong ties in trade and investment, the ambassador said. Under discussion is a trade and investment framework that could eventually serve as the basis for a free trade agreement which could lead to dialogue on other economic issues.

In his first public statements, Abdullah has “already signaled a different course from his predecessor,” Huhtala observed, including calling for a crack down on corruption and an end to cronyism. “He has emphasized the importance of checks and balances to prevent abuse of power and called on members of Parliament to accept criticism and contrary views to ensure that the culture of democracy thrives.”

Politically, the United States will seek to improve relations with Malaysia on a broad range of issues within Southeast Asia and beyond the region, Huhtala said. This includes Malaysia playing “a leadership role on tough issues, like pressing the Burmese junta to move toward democracy” and supporting U.S. efforts to mobilize countries in the region to cooperate on counterterrorism and improve security both on land and at sea.

“We also seek a broad dialogue with Kuala Lumpur on issues as diverse and difficult as the Israeli-Palestine conflict and the reconstruction in Iraq,” Huhtala said, noting the role Malaysia plays both in the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Terrorism Expert on ‘The New Face of Al Qaeda’

Recent terrorist attacks in Turkey symbolize the shift toward “soft” targets, business and population centers of U.S. allies and friends overseas, said Rohan Gunaratna, one of the world’s top Al Qaeda experts. He also predicted terrorist attacks in Iraq will not stop until the United States leaves and power is handed back to the Iraqis.

Gunaratna spoke on “The New Face of Al Qaeda” at the inaugural Asia Pacific Homeland Security Summit and Exposition held in Honolulu in late November. Author of “Inside Al Qaeda: Global Network of Terror,” Gunaratna is an associate professor at the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore. The East-West Center was one of the summit’s collaborating partners with State of Hawai’i departments and the governor’s office.

A weakened Al Qaeda is training and financing smaller local terrorist organizations to carry out attacks in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and parts of Europe, such as Chechnya, Gunaratna said. Attacks will continue to occur in those regions rather than Western Europe, North America and Australia, where public awareness has been heightened and there is an unprecedented sharing of intelligence.

With U.S. targets inside the United States and overseas no longer easy terrorist targets, terrorists have shifted their focus. To win the war on terrorism, Gunaratna advised the United States to provide resources for poorer and smaller countries to fight terrorists, as in Afghanistan.

“This is a fight between moderate Muslims and extremists, not the West and Islam,” he said. Western countries must work with moderate Muslims and focus on people-to-people relations — financing educational institutions and other organizations — rather than rely on government-to-government relations of the past, he suggested.

The terrorist attacks have put the world in a “state of perpetual conflict,” he said. Fighting terrorism must be “like we fight crime today...a daily feature.”

In Iraq, Gunaratna contends, the United States does not have strong enough intelligence to stop the violence. “Iraq is very clearly now the land of jihad. There’s very little we can do....”
Beyond Bilateralism: The U.S.-Japan Relationship in the New Asia-Pacific, edited by Ellis Krauss and T. J. Pempel. Contemporary Issues in Asia and the Pacific. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004. 448 pp. The sixth title in the East-West Center book series published by Stanford University Press, Beyond Bilateralism analyzes how, and to what extent, crucial global and regional security, finance and trade transformations have altered the U.S.-Japan relationship and how that bilateral relationship has in turn influenced those global and regional trends. This is the first comprehensive analysis of the ways in which changes in the geopolitical context have altered the nature of the long-stable U.S.-Japan relationship. The authors present 11 case studies of important domains — ranging from increased flows of private capital to international security concerns to the growing importance of multilateral organizations — in which the relationship has been altered to a greater or lesser degree. Cloth, $65.00; paper, $27.95. Available on-line from Stanford University Press at http://www.sup.org or from University of Chicago Press Distribution Center, (800)621-2736.

Asian Oil Market Outlook: Role of the Key Players, by Jeffrey Brown and Kang Wu. AsiaPacific Issues, No. 70, October 2003. Honolulu: East-West Center. 11 pp. The Asia Pacific region's dynamic oil market is marked by strong growth in consumption, declining regional oil production and over capacity in its highly competitive oil-refining sector. Its “key players” are China, India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea — a group that includes the region's five top consumers and three of its major producers — and developments in these countries will have commercial and strategic implications for the whole region. On the consumption side, Japan's slow growth in demand has failed to dampen regional growth, which is now driven by China and India's fast growing thirst for oil. On the supply side, Indonesia's inevitable transition to a net oil importer highlights the trend toward growing dependence on Middle East oil. In response to this trend, China, Japan and South Korea are pushing to acquire overseas oil reserves, with Japan and China already locked in a fierce competition for projected Russian supplies. Printed hard copy available for $2.50 plus shipping/handling from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org. Free downloadable PDF file accessible at http://www.EastWestCenter.org/res-rp-publicationdetails.asp?pub_ID=1427.


Also published:


More than 300 students participated in the Model UN at the East-West Center.

New Generation Seminar Tackles ‘Challenges of Religious Diversity’

Participants in the 13th annual New Generation Seminar examined “Challenges of Religious Diversity” globally during the two-week program that began at the East-West Center in Honolulu. After the first week of sessions at the Center, the 17 participants spent a week in Bangkok, Thailand, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The program provides potential young leaders from the United States and Asia Pacific region with the opportunity to strengthen their understanding of regional issues and challenges, increase their contacts with counterparts in other countries and become more effective leaders.

After returning to their countries, several participants commented on highlights of the seminar and how their experiences will be reflected in their work.

“Most valuable for me was the opportunity to interact with an amazing group of leaders from Asia and get their perspective on their countries, their lives and their impressions of the U.S. and world events,” said Hannah Pingree, a Democratic member of the Maine House of Representatives. “Additionally being an American in a foreign country right now, studying the issues of religion and politics, couldn’t have been more timely or ideal. Traveling abroad can make all the difference in reaching a broader understanding.”

For John Chung, a researcher with the Democratic Action Party in Malaysia, the seminar “afforded me the opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation of the uniqueness of the different religious traditions and how inter-religious dialogue can help foster greater understanding between adherents of different faiths in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.”

Pingree added that “the religious theme was a perfect subject for our times — as so many conflicts in America, the Middle East and around the world seem to spread from religious misunderstanding, persecution or extremism. Just having the time to discuss and experience religious diversity in an academic, political and real context was powerful.”

Delsey Ronnie, a senior political analyst at the Aceh Institute for Social Political Studies in Indonesia, also appreciated the opportunity to discuss religious diversity, as well as issues related to population and energy during seminar sessions with specialists from the East-West Center, the University of Hawai‘i and Hawai‘i’s community.

“I am a researcher on peace and conflict issues, sometimes I write articles in the newspaper.” Ronnie explained. “I can use all of the information I got during the seminars as my resource.” This fall, at an international seminar on “Peace Journalism” in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, he said, “I talked about my experience in Honolulu when the East-West Center invited several religious leaders from different religions in Hawai‘i (to speak) as a sample to build understanding in multiculturalism.”

Chung also found the cultural exchange and inter-religious dialogue during the seminar “particularly relevant to me in my work as a research executive dealing with political issues, especially in the context of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious composition” of Malaysia.

“It came away from the seminar reminded of the importance of working towards an increased understanding and appreciation of each other’s religious traditions, as opposed to mere religious tolerance, which is vital in helping to avert religious misunderstandings and conflicts,” he said.

Pingree also appreciated the range of issues discussed. “From conversations about having children in China to being a Muslim in Singapore, I learned an incredible amount from the group of people who I traveled with,” added Pingree. “This experience has left a deep impression in my understanding of world politics and even the day-to-day political conflicts we deal with in America. As young leaders, I couldn’t imagine a more relevant topic.”

Singapore Ambassador Addresses Model UN Conference

Singapore ambassador to the United States Chan Heng Chee delivered the keynote address at a Model United Nations Conference, attended by 300 university students from Hawai‘i and the U.S. Mainland, at the East-West Center in November.

In her address, she discussed the United Nations’ role as a peace agent: as peacemaker, peacekeeper and peace builder, and referred also to progress in nation building in Cambodia and East Timor. To appreciate the United Nations, she advised the students, consider what it does from a long-term perspective.

“The United Nations is vitally important to small states like Singapore,” she said. “We rely on the UN to maintain peace and security, develop friendly relations and achieve international cooperation.”

“We choose issues very carefully that have meaning to us as a small state and that we can empathize with as a small state,” she said, explaining to the students that 124 of 190 U.N. members are considered small states — countries with populations of less than 10 million people.

During the sessions, the student diplomats debated and negotiated critical global issues such as terrorism, infectious disease, the environment and human rights in the same format as formal United Nations meetings.

The conference was sponsored by the East-West Center and Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and involved EWC degree students and participants in the EWC Asia Pacific Leadership Program.
One of the most daunting problems of China’s shift toward a market economy is that changes in the nation’s social safety net have lagged. When the state controlled the entire economy, the workplace was the source not just of a worker’s paycheck, but also of his or her health care, old age pension and children’s education. The system was dubbed “the iron rice bowl.” “China has raw capitalism now,” said Christopher McNally, the East-West Center scholar. “The safety net has eroded and a new one is slowly being stitched together.”

Symbolism and substance blend when U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld meets today with his Vietnamese counterpart, the first defense minister from the communist country to visit the Pentagon since the war’s end in 1975.

Some 30 years after America’s defeat in Vietnam, Pham Van Tra is expected to talk with Rumsfeld and Air Force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, about lingering problems from the war and how the countries can become allies in the fight against terrorism.

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Alumni Endowment Fund at 90% of $250,000 Goal

Over $225,000 in pledges and cash have been raised for the Alumni Endowment Fund. As part of the 1960s Reunion celebration, the East-West Center Foundation established the Alumni Endowment Fund to support student scholarships as a legacy to future generations of students to participate in the East-West Center education program. The funds will be placed in the EWC Foundation’s Endowment Fund where the principal amount of the gift will be held by the Foundation intact and in perpetuity, with income from the investment of these funds used to fund student scholarships. After contributions exceeded the initial goal of $100,000, the new goal of $250,000 was established in order to continue to build the fund.

During the reunion, the EWC Foundation sponsored a luncheon, “Making A Difference With Your Giving” which featured Kelvin Taketa, president and CEO of the Hawai‘i Community Foundation, as the keynote speaker. Conference participants were very generous in their support of the endowment by donating over $40,000.

The East-West Center Foundation Honor Roll of Donors wall will be displayed in Burns Hall in early 2004. The Honor Roll is designed to thank and recognize our generous donors who have made or will make gifts of $1,000 or more to the Alumni Endowment Fund. Gifts received by January 31, 2004 will appear on the final Honor Roll of Donors. All donors of $1,000 or more will receive an exclusive silver EWC alumni endowment pin. For gifts of $3,000 or more, donors will receive an East-West Center worldwide travel calculator.

Betty Bullard is the chair and Sumi Makey is the vice chair of the alumni endowment committee. Members include Lyn Flanigan Anzai, John Hawkins, Ted Kaplan, Gary Larsen, Tsue Ostermann, Chhany Sak-Humphry, Thanh Lo Sananikone, and Ethel Ward.

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On behalf of the East-West Center, we would like to thank those individuals, corporations, businesses, foundations, and organizations who have generously contributed to the East-West Center Foundation. Listed are gifts received between June 1, 2003 and November 30, 2003.

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An International Affair 2004

Mark your calendar for An International Affair, the EWC Foundation’s annual dinner, on Wednesday, July 14, 2004 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. The event will celebrate the culture of the Philippines. The East-West Center Foundation will be presenting the Asia Pacific Community Building Award to The Honorable Corazon C. Aquino, former President of the Republic of the Philippines (1986-1992), in recognition of her determination and courage in leading a democratic revolution in the Philippines. The evening’s festivities will feature a silent auction. Proceeds from the auction will benefit student scholarships to the East-West Center.

EWC Foundation Programs

Sheila Smith, EWC Fellow, Politics and Security Studies, spoke on “Japan’s Gamble with North Korea: What is at Stake?” on September 16, 2003.


New Members of the EWC Foundation Board of Directors

Newly appointed to the EWC Foundation Board of Directors were Cynthia J.C. Ai, Jean Ariyoshi, Joan M. Bickson, John Hawkins, Director, UCLA Center for International Development Education and Ruth Y. Ono.

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