EAST-WEST CENTER
Building an Asia Pacific Community

Observer

Alumni Gather at EWC South Asia Conference in India

Some 150 East-West Center alumni from 10 countries gathered at a three-day regional conference in New Delhi in mid-November to discuss the building of a South Asia community in a global context. Participants from EWC alumni chapters in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as the United States, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, attended the event at the India Habitat Center, sponsored by the East-West Center and the East-West Center Association (EWCA), in cooperation with the U.S. Educational Foundation in India.

Tarun Das, chief mentor of the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi and a member of the EWC Board of Governors, gave a keynote address at the conference which explored major issues facing the region, including health, disaster management, economic development, gender, energy, government policies, arts and culture, the media, and education.

"We need, we seek, a body of people to dream a new dream for South Asia," Das said, "and to translate that dream to reality, to build a United States of South Asia free of barriers and full of trust. I see that happening. All of us together can make this come true."

EWC alumnus S.B. Bandusena from Sri Lanka, greets EWC Board member Tarun Das (L) and EWC President Charles E. Morrison.

Das acknowledged that South Asia has lagged behind "in building its community of relationship and partnership. India, as the largest country in South Asia, has to be a role model as a 'giver' without expecting equivalent returns," he said. "India's example is

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Inside

U.S. Asia Pacific Council Warns of Danger of Ignoring East Asia Regionalization

The United States' seeming indifference to important economic and political changes in East Asia could pose a threat to its standing in the region and hit the U.S. where it really hurts — the pocketbook, speakers warned at the annual meeting of the U.S. Asia Pacific Council in Washington D.C. on Oct. 25. Delivering the keynote address to the audience that included former diplomats, economists and scholars was U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona), chair of the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Finance and Related Matters.

Speaking of the possible economic ramifications of East Asia regionalism, former U.S. ambassador and now dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy Stephen Bosworth urged that the U.S. forego multiple bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) in the region in favor of a "global, WTO-based approach." Bosworth pointed out the bilateral accords would lead to a "spaghetti bowl of FTAs with no standardization." The former diplomat said such a scenario could greatly compromise U.S. business activity.

The WTO was also on the mind of Congressman Kolbe as he spoke of the importance of economic

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J.Stapleton Roy, chair of the U.S. Asia Pacific Council, U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona), and Pat Saiki, member of the EWC Board of Governors and former congresswoman, at the USAPC meeting in Washington.

Alumni Gather at EWC South Asia Conference in India

Conference panelists included EWC directors and alumni.

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essential and inevitable to build a South Asian community and for building trust."

He said "building mutual trust is a long process. And, it can be derailed easily. But, the movement to build trust has to be built step by step, action by action."

Das suggested that infrastructure, telecommunications and information technology will bring people together for business purposes and regional cooperation. He noted the major role women of South Asia can play in a South Asian community, adding the importance of involving the region's huge population of young people under 25 years of age.

"The building of human resources capacity through education, training and retraining would change the face of South Asia and its future," he said. "This is a huge challenge."

Das said he senses in the region "a strong commitment to change," "a culture of new confidence coming out of pain and setback" and "the capacity for courage to go for a better future for South Asia."

In his speech at the conference, EWC President Charles E. Morrison described the extensive alumni network of approximately 50,000 individuals who either studied at the Center or participated in short-term programs for journalists, political leaders, teachers or other professionals. Among the distinguished alumni is Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India, who attended a conference at the Center in Honolulu. Morrison spoke of a visit in New Delhi in March with the prime minister and their discussion of the Center's mission of Asia Pacific community building. "He emphasized to us that this mission is all the more important now than it was when the Center was established some 45 years ago," Morrison said.

He also introduced the Center's senior management, adding that their attendance was "a tribute to the importance that we attach to strengthening and deepening the East-West Center's engagement with institutions and individuals in South Asia.

"We seek your advice and ideas, we look forward to new partnerships, and we are very pleased to see so many new and renewed alumni chapters in this region," he said, adding that the Center plans to establish an EWC office in the region within the next year or two.

Robert Blake, charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in India, also spoke at the conference's opening session, noting that the first summit of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries had just concluded with "a reaffirmation of the imperative to accelerate regional trade and integration in South Asia."

But, he said, "partnerships are not and cannot be just between governments. People and their educational institutions, businesses and the non-governmental organizations are at the heart of effective community-building at local, regional and global levels. Engagement by people is what will propel and sustain the formal ties of governments.

"It is no exaggeration to say that everyone in this room has benefited significantly from international education and exchange in one way or another," Blake said. "The (East-West) Center has long shown that when people from different societies come together to study, train and conduct research they not only gain professionally and personally, but they also contribute to a more peaceful, stable and tolerant global community."

The conference also featured speakers and presentations by EWC alumni from throughout South Asia and by EWC specialists from its Honolulu campus and Washington office.

The EWC has 10 alumni chapters in South Asia, part of an international network with past affiliation with the Center. Many South Asian alumni occupy key positions in government, business, journalism and education throughout the region.

Prior to the conference, alumni chapter leaders from India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia participated in a workshop to discuss strategic planning and future projects.

Mongolia, a 'Link of Stability' Between Central Asia and Northeast Asia

Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar.

With its strategic location, democratic system of government and historical and cultural ties, Mongolia can play a constructive role as "a link of stability between Central Asia and Northeast Asia," said Nambaryn Enkhbayar, the nation's president, in an address at the East-West Center in mid-September.

"Mongolia is in a position to work with Central Asian and Northeast Asian countries not only bilaterally but also within the multilateral framework," he said, because of good relations with countries in both regions.

Enkhbayar spoke at a public program at the East-West Center in Hawai'i , after participating in the United Nations World Summit, which was attended by more than 150 heads of state and government, in New York.

In his speech at the Center, Enkhbayar said Mongolia's transformation since 1990 from an authoritarian regime to a democratic system and its political and economic reforms can be a "positive model" for countries in the regions. Citing the "clear-cut strategic significance" of his country, the president also discussed the geo-political importance of close collaboration between Mongolia and the United States.

"Mongolia joined the global coalition against terrorism without any reservation and committed itself to the global fight against terrorism," he said. "Since then we have been working closely with the U.S. administration in Iraq and Afghanistan."

(In November, President George W. Bush stopped in Ulan Bator at the end of a trip to Asia and thanked Mongolia for maintaining a military contingent of 130 troops in Iraq. Bush also applauded the country's shift from communism to democracy and a free-market system 15 years ago.)

In July 2004, the two nations agreed in a joint declaration that "a democratic, secure and prosperous Mongolia, that promotes friendly relations with its neighbors and is an active participant in regional and international economic, political and security forums, is essential to ensuring peace and stability in Asia."

"The example of Afghanistan clearly shows that small countries should not be underestimated or ignored and that problems of small countries, if not timely addressed, may become a source of international tension and concern," Enkhbayar said. "Further stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan constitutes an important and integral part of the overall security situation" in the region of Central Asia.

With respect to Northeast Asia, he said the agreement reached in September at the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear arms program was "a first step forward."

"However, we should remember that this hard-earned agreement is but a step in a long path lying ahead of us and the main job is yet to be done," he said.

Enkhbayar noted that some scholars have suggested that the Six-Party Talks may produce "a broader regional mechanism." He said such a development would be welcome. "We believe that success in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue would pave the way for turning the Six-Party Talks into a multilateral security dialogue mechanism, encompassing all the countries of the region, including Mongolia," he said.

The president also predicted possibilities for Northeast Asian cooperation in the energy sector, in improving the energy supply and enhancing energy security in the region. Because Mongolia attaches great importance to promoting regional cooperation in the energy sector, it was to host an intergovernmental meeting on the issue in November, he said.

"We expect that the establishment of such a mechanism would enable the countries of the region to implement multilateral projects that could increase cross-border energy trade among the countries of Northeast Asia," he said.

Morrison Picked to Lead Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

EWC President Charles E. Morrison was elected chair of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) at the 16th PECC General Meeting in Seoul in September. Morrison succeeds Kim Kihwan of Korea. He is the first chair to serve a three-year term and the first American to chair PECC since 1991-93 when Ambassador Richard Fairbanks led PECC.

As chair of PECC, Morrison will guide the 25 member committees representing economies of the Asia Pacific region. PECC, whose secretariat is based in Singapore, was established in 1980 to provide an independent process for collaboration across the academic, business and governmental sectors. It seeks to be proactive in identifying key issues in transpacific economic cooperation and suggesting means for their resolution. PECC also provides information and analytical support to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial meetings and working groups. It also facilitates private-sector participation in the formal APEC process.

Morrison assumes the PECC chair at an important time in its history. He will be responsible for implementing key changes in PECC governance adopted at the 16th General Meeting and will also oversee a number of new PECC initiatives. At the Seoul meeting, PECC agreed to establish task forces on topical issues, which will produce timely, policy-oriented reports on issues critical to regional community building.

News in Brief

Supporting the Center

RECENT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Research/ Politics & Security

$25,053
Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission

Research/ Population & Health

$223,220
UN Programme on AIDS

Research/Environment

$1,053,552
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin./ Riverside Technology, inc

Pacific Disaster Center

$93,641
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin./ Riverside Technology, inc

$597,000
U.S. Trade & Develop. Agency/Network Dynamics Associates

Education

$616,000
Freeman Foundation

$55,000
Inter-American Development Bank

$185,264
National Endowment for Humanities

$10,000
EWC Foundation/ Jhamandas Watumull Fund

Seminars

$210,000
Henry Luce Foundation

External Affairs

$24,125
U.S. Department of State

$5,000
EWC Foundation/ Friends of Hawai'i Charities

EWC-Washington

$448,668
Center for Global Partnership, Japan Foundation

$24,669
U.S. Institute of Peace

OPEC President Speaks at Conference in Seoul

The president of OPEC, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al Sabah, who is also minister for Energy in Kuwait, addressed the opening session of the inaugural Korean Oil and Gas Conference (KOGC 2005) in Seoul, Nov. 20-22.

Some 200 delegates attended the first international oil and gas conference to be held in Korea. Energy experts and oil industry leaders as well as Korean business and government officials participated in the conference, organized by the East-West Center and The Conference Connection Inc. of Singapore., and supported by South Korea's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy and the Korea Energy Economics Institute.

Dilbar Khalimova from Bukhara, Uzbekistan, demontrates her mastery of embroidery to EWC Asia Pacific Leadership student Yulia Zhuravskaya, also from Uzbekistan.

'Enduring Threads' of Silk Road on Exhibition at EWC Gallery

A collection of *suzani* textiles from Central Asia collected by the late heiress Doris Duke is being shown publicly for the first time at the East-West Center Gallery through Jan. 19. The exhibition, titled "Enduring Threads," is presented by the EWC Arts Program in conjunction with The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

Suzani is the Persian word for needle and the textile tradition remains strong today in the Uzbekistan city of Bukhara, which was an important stop along the legendary Silk Road. In addition to the exhibition, the Center sponsored demonstrations of *suzani* weaving by a visiting artist from Uzbekistan, and a series of lectures on such topics as textile restoration, a historic look at Bukhara and the Silk Road, and the culture and politics of Central Asia. A performance by the Shashmaqam, Bukharian Jewish ensemble will be held at the EWC's Imin Center-Jefferson Hall in January.

These EWC Arts programs are supported by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, the Hawai'i Pacific Rim Society, the Jackie Chan Foundation USA and contributors to the EWC Foundation.

Ukiyo-e Gift to EWC Asian Art Collection

A gift of 207 *ukiyo-e* (Japanese woodblock prints) was donated to the East-West Center in October by Utagawaha Monjinkai, a non-profit Japanese organization dedicated to the preservation of the distinctive art form.

The prints will become part of the East-West Center's permanent collection of Asian art and artifacts. Akihiro Aoyagi of the Utagawaha Monjinkai, said he and his organization are "happy to have found a most appreciative recipient" of the more than 200 prints. The gift includes works by famous *ukiyo-e* artists Hiroshige, Hokusai, Utamaru, Kuniyoshi, and the mysterious Sharaku.

EWC President Charles E. Morrison called the gesture "a stunning gift that the Center will treasure."

"These works represent a great cultural and artistic heritage and will serve as a valuable educational tool," said William Feltz, coordinator of the Center's Arts Program.

Pacific Disaster Center and Thailand Partner to Save Lives

The Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) and the government of Thailand signed an agreement in November to develop an early warning system for the Southeast Asian nation's National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC). The PDC, headquartered in Hawai'i, will provide technical support and assistance under the terms of the $597,000 contract.

"The Pacific Disaster Center is extremely proud to support Thailand's further development of disaster analysis and warning dissemination capabilities," said PDC Chief Operating Officer Ray Shirkhodai. "It is clear from last December's devastating Indian Ocean tsunami that this endeavor is extremely significant in terms of protecting lives."

The new contract calls for PDC to assist the Thai agency in deploying an operations technology center. This includes tools to automate data collection, assessments and notification systems and procedures, as well as hazard-event tracking tools, and a Geographic Information Systems map viewer.

The project is envisioned to complement current efforts by the U.S. Agency for International Development to develop a comprehensive regional Indian Ocean tsunami warning system. The East-West Center has been the PDC's managing partner since 2001.

Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes is greeted by East-West Center students during a vist to the Center in November.

Toufiq and Ulrike Siddiqi Degree Scholars Award

In an extraordinary gesture of appreciation for the Center's student programs, former EWC staff and volunteers Toufiq and Ulrike Siddiqi recently made a contribution of $100,000 to establish an endowment to assist students from South Asia come to the East-West Center. The Toufiq and Ulrike Siddiqi Degree Scholars Awards are designed to help Degree Fellows who need initial assistance to enhance the grants provided by the East-West Center. Awards will be made annually for two to four Degree Fellows from South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).

Toufiq Siddqi, an Adjunct Senior Fellow, and his wife have spent the better part of the past 28 years at the EWC. He left a tenured faculty appointment as Associate Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington, to help develop the Center's Environment and Policy Institute, and initiated in 1979 the project on "The Environmental Dimensions of Energy Policies," the first such program in the region. He also served as Special Assistant to former EWC President Victor Li, coordinated the Center's "Core Seminar" for all new students, and initiated in 1988 the Center's program on global climate change. Ulrike Siddiqi served for over seven years as Treasurer on the Board of the Friends of the East-West Center. Both of them were deeply involved in the Center's host family program and student activities.

Toufiq and Ulrike Siddiqi and Charles Morrison

Siddiqi noted that the Degree Fellows program plays a major role in the EWC's overall mission. "In addition to the education and research functions, the East-West Center was meant to be an institution for public diplomacy. Unlike professional diplomats who have to deal with immediate issues and crises, the sort of public diplomacy the East-West Center undertakes is through forging links over years and decades, and preventing issues from becoming crises. The Degree Fellows are a crucial link in achieving this goal."

"Receiving a scholarship to become a Degree Fellow at the East-West Center is wonderful. Not being able to afford to accept it is not. We thought we might be able to help in some small way. Over the years, as a host family to Degree Fellows, we found that many of them need some initial financial assistance during their first months here, and sometimes for even the airfare to get here."

Siddiqi and his wife hope that their gift "will encourage others who have been closely associated with the Center to provide similar support to enable worthy Degree Fellows the opportunity to live and study here, and, to continue to build a greater East-West family."

1970s Alumni Endowment Fund at 40% of $100,000 Goal

Over $40,000 in pledges and cash have been raised for the Alumni Endowment Fund. Kwong Yong Chuang (John) and Cheng Tuan Lim of Singapore donated $10,000 to the fund. They were both in Open Grants from 1978 to 1980 and married in Hawai'i.

We are seeking the help of the Seventies alumni to build upon the endowment fund started two years ago. The goal is $100,000 with a minimum contribution of $1,000. For gifts of $1,000 or more, payments may be made over 3 years. The names of donors will appear on the Honor Roll of Donors displayed in Burns Hall. All donors of $1,000 or more will receive an exclusive EWC alumni endowment pin. For gifts of $3,000 or more, donors will receive an EWC worldwide travel calculator.

Please help us in our efforts to sustain one of the Center's integral programs. The Alumni Endowment Fund will enable the Center to attract quality applicants and strengthen a program that has global outreach. The availability of supplementary scholarships enables those who could not otherwise afford the additional expenses to accept the EWC award and join the EWC community.

Sumi Makey and Jeni Miyasaki are the chairs of the 1970s alumni endowment committee. Members include Betty Buck, Joan Choi, Mendl Djunaidy, June Kuramoto, Meg McGowan, Rose Nakamura, Chhany Sak-Humphry, June Sato, Larry Smith and Gregory Trifonovitch.

Donors

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

Listed are the gifts received between September 1, 2005 and November 30, 2005.

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

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Asia Pacific Breakfast Briefing at Bank of Hawaii

Aslam Syed, EWC Visiting Fellow, spoke on September 13, 2005 on "Between Capitalism and Socialism: The Ideal Islamic State."

Christopher Edmonds, EWC Fellow, spoke on November 8, 2005 on "Post 9/11 Global Terrorism and its Impact on Tourism in Hawai'i."

Arts Ohana

The EWC Gallery exhibition *Enduring Threads: Central Asian Embroidered Textiles* was the focus of the Arts Ohana event on November 2, 2005. Dr. Michael Schuster and Visual Ethnographer Hermine Dreyfuss led a gallery walk-through, and Artist-in-Residence Dilbar Khalimova, embroider and natural dyer from Bukhara, Uzbekistan, provided fascinating demonstrations that evening and throughout the week.

New Members of the EWC Foundation Board of Directors

Paul M.F. Cheng of Hong Kong, Chairman of The Link Management, Ltd. (REIT); **Bruce A. Coppa**, Senior Vice President, Communications Pacific; and **Neal K. Kanda**, President and Chief Operating Officer of Central Pacific Financial Corporation were appointed to the board.

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In Tackling Avian Flu, Address Public Health and Environmental Issues

The threat of an avian flu pandemic calls for innovative solutions that address both public health issues as well as environmental and sustainable development concerns, said Koh Kheng Lian, professor of law at National University of Singapore and the director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law.

Koh is a respected expert on environmental law and has done work with the Asia Development Bank, World Bank Institute and United Nations. At a public program at the East-West Center in November, she called for cooperation not only at a regional but also global scale, involving governments and organizations such as ASEAN, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

"President Bush has called for cooperation not only among governments but among all the stakeholders," she said, explaining that input must come not just from the top down but from all stakeholders as well.

Unfortunately, she cautioned, policymakers are not taking a broad enough approach as they develop policies, looking only at the public health or human impact while neglecting to consider the repercussions environmentally.

While governments would be at fault if they did not heed early warnings, instead accepting false reassurances and allowing the flu to take root, overreacting with costly and unnecessary practices in response to false alarms would be harmful to humans, animals and the environment, she said.

Singapore has been cited as a model for tackling bird flu, Koh said. It has spent $30 million for drugs, $75 million to enable its hospitals to prepare for a possible outbreak, instituted twice a month testing of migratory birds and increased biosecurity of all poultry and slaughter houses.

In developing guidelines, she encouraged policymakers to be more proactive — to address, for example, what causes the avian flu — not focus too narrowly on human health issues while ignoring the effect poorly developed and short-sighted policies will have on the environment and sustainable development. If large numbers of migratory birds were destroyed, for example, she said, there could be repercussions for crops and harvests that are dependent on the birds for pest control.

Citing examples of multilateral environmental agreements on biodiversity in the past, she called for solutions that are forward-looking and multi-disciplinary, and warned against using "yesterday's approaches" to solve current threats and future problems.

U.S. Asia Pacific Council Warns of Danger of Ignoring East Asia Regionalization

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realities of East Asia regionalism, both to the United States and to other members of the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) forum, which subsequently held its annual summit on Nov. 18 and 19 in South Korea.

U.S. Repesentative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona) delivered the keynote address at the U.S. Asia Pacific Council annual meeting.

"Countries like the U.S., China, Japan, South Korea, and many others in APEC are major if not principal beneficiaries of the global trading system," he said, "therefore, the future of WTO and this round (of negotiations) is critical to the future of APEC's stability and economic growth."

Others followed down the same economic road. C. Fred Bergsten, director of the Institute of International Economics, highlighted the implications, and the raw economic power of East Asia regionalization. According to Bergsten, "(East Asia) would account for about 20 percent of global output. It would comprise close to 20 percent of world trade. Its members would hold well over 50 percent of international monetary reserves." The economist warned that ignoring the rise of regionalization could lead to East Asian and Western countries drawing a "line down the middle of the Pacific."

The China Card

Economics, however, was not the only aspect of East Asian regionalization discussed by the experts. China's growing role within, and outside, the region was also noted.

Akihiko Tanaka, director of Tokyo University's Institute of Oriental Culture, said the emergence of China on the world scene is not necessarily the negative many in the West make it out to be. Tanaka pointed to Beijing's facilitation of the Six-Party Talks to defuse the North Korean nuclear issue as a "great achievement" of Chinese diplomacy. But, he added, "for the sake of Asia," China and Japan must improve their bilateral relations.

J. Stapleton Roy, former U.S. ambassador and current chair of the U.S. Asia Pacific Council, concurred. He maintained that the "integrative forces of the region" would ensure China's reemergence as the central Asian country geographically, politically, and economically will not be destabilizing.

Publications in Review

***Protest and Possibilities: Civil Society and Coalitions for Political Change in Malaysia*, by Meredith L. Weiss. *Contemporary Issues in Asia and the Pacific*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005. 344 pp.**

Protest and Possibilities is the ninth title in the East-West Center book series, Contemporary Issues in Asia and the Pacific, published by Stanford University Press. This book explores the pursuit of political reform in Malaysia, an illiberal democracy, and contrasts coalition-building and reform processes there with those of electoral, authoritarian Indonesia. The study considers the roles of civil society agents in promoting alternative (especially noncommunal) political norms and helping to find common ground among opposition political actors, and compares recent reformist initiatives with past political trajectories. *Cloth, $65.00; paper, $24.95. Order this publication from University of Chicago Press Distribution Center, (800)621-2736.*

***Unifying China, Integrating with the World: Securing Chinese Sovereignty in the Reform Era*, by Allen Carlson. *Studies in Asian Security*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005. 320 pp.**

Unifying China, Integrating with the World contends that sovereignty, and more directly the extent to which it creates walls between any given state and other actors in the international system, lies at the core of China's foreign relations during the reform era. Through a comprehensive survey of both Chinese and English-language sources, the author shows that during this period China's stance changed in unexpected ways, and argues that such shifts were products of the evolving relationship between deeply entrenched sovereignty-centric values within China, new self-interests created by Deng Xiaoping's emphasis on reform and opening, and the subsequent set of external pressures for change inadvertently brought to bear on China during the last two decades. For China watchers the book's findings are compelling, since they challenge the current conventional wisdom in the field. Chinese sovereignty is not as unyielding and monolithic as is commonly asserted. *Cloth, $55.00. Order this publication from University of Chicago Press Distribution Center, (800)621-2736.*

***Banking Crises in East Asia: The Price Tag of Liberalization?* by Ilan Noy. *AsiaPacific Issues*, No. 78, November 2005. Honolulu: East-West Center. Free downloadable PDF file available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/find.asp?it=api078. 8 pp.**

The banking crises that swept through East Asia in 1997-1998 set off dramatic recessions in the affected countries and imposed heavy costs on the domestic taxpayers. Fear of further crises prompted searches for causes and early warning signs. It soon became apparent that liberalization of the domestic financial sectors of the countries in crises contributed to the genesis of these crises, but policymakers, regulators and economists disagree about the reason for this. Initial scrutiny fell on unregulated international capital flows, but a comprehensive study suggests that liberalization can lead to financial instability either because of insufficient regulation of the financial sector or because of erosion of previously granted monopolies of existing banks. These possibilities suggest varying policy implications for the current state of domestic financial systems in East Asia. *Paper, $2.50. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.*

***The Economics of the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative*, by Seiji F. Naya and Michael G. Plummer. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2005. 443 pp.**

The Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative (EAI), as envisaged in 2002 by the Bush administration, is set to be a landmark in U.S.-ASEAN trade relations. *The Economics of the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative* is intended to inform governmental, and nongovernmental policy-makers, trade analysts, economists, and researchers who need to have a comprehensive guide to this major trade initiative. This study provides detailed background, an analytical overview and a map to the unfolding negotiations. It includes: a qualitative and quantitative review of the U.S.-ASEAN economic relationship, in-depth analysis of policy considerations and stakes in the EAI from both the U.S. and ASEAN member-state perspectives, a survey of the modern theories of free trade areas (FTAs) and empirical testing of the economics of the EAI itself. *Paper, S$49.90/US$29.90. Available from the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, http://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg/.*

***After the Tsunami: Human Rights of Vulnerable Populations*, edited by Laurel E. Fletcher, Eric Stover, and Harvey M. Weinstein. Berkeley: Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley; Honolulu: East-West Center, 2005. 110 pp. Free downloadable PDF files available online at www.EastWestCenter.org/find.asp?it=AfterTsunami.**

After the Tsunami: Human Rights of Vulnerable Populations is based on interviews conducted by research teams in March and April 2005 with hundreds of tsunami survivors, government officials, human rights activists and aid workers in five tsunami-affected countries-India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Thailand. The study recommends that governments in tsunami-affected countries should commission an independent study to investigate reports of inequities in aid distribution; increase accountability and transparency of public and private aid providers; and develop mechanisms that will enable tsunami survivors to participate in reconstruction planning and implementation. *Paper. Available from the East-West Center, ewcbooks@EastWestCenter.org.*

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Identifying the Core Issues Facing Asia Pacific in the Year 2020

What are the critical issues of common concern facing the Asia Pacific community as it enters the year 2020? More than 100 participants from the East-West Center, University of Hawaii and community tackled that question at a spirited symposium organized by students in the 2005 Asia Pacific Leadership Program in December.

The inaugural program, titled "APLP Crow's Nest" — a sea-faring reference to a viewing platform that enables the sailor to look into the distance — brought together students, scholars, researchers and community members for a three-hour dialogue on the region's future at the EWC Imin International Conference Center.

Members of the Asia Pacific Leadership Program organized a gathering to discuss core issues facing the region in the year 2020.

Moderators and APLP students Nash Sampaco of the Philippines and Shafiq Meyer of Canada tasked participants with looking "15 years into the future of two-thirds of the globe and three-fifths of humanity and across disciplinary boundaries — in under three hours."

"If we are to be leaders who navigate change, we have to navigate with vision," Sampac said.

"What are the issues and challenges we face and how will they affect each of us?" Meyer asked, as the session began.

In their discussions, participants identified a half-dozen core issues as most likely to affect, in a positive or negative way, "the formation of a peaceful, prosperous and just Asia Pacific community as it enters the year 2020." These included:

- The reduction of the gap between rich and poor.
- The provision of education for all.
- Resource shortages and climate change.
- Migration and ethnic tensions.
- Realignment of power relationships in the region.
- New emerging health challenges.

In the plenary session that closed the program, participants also offered suggestions for next year's symposium.

"When we talked about issues, everyone assumed we were talking about problems," said Catherine Truong, an APLP student from Chicago. Her discussion group, therefore, asked themselves what would be the greatest achievements for the region in 2020. Among the achievements on their list: a 100% literacy rate, the elimination of hunger and the emergence of a civil society.

EWC degree fellow Stuart Candy of Australia said the symposium reminded him "how difficult it is to project about futures. We tend to think of the future as one scenario and ask what will be the one future scenario instead of looking at the many different possibilities we can select from," he suggested. "We need to unlearn the tendency to think of the future as a singular place we're going to arrive at, but as many different possibilities and opportunities for solutions and greatest achievements."

Institute Generates New Strategies for Innovation in Education

The first Education Leadership Institute was held at the East-West Center in September, with participants from educational institutions and ministries identifying emerging educational challenges in their respective countries in the Asia Pacific region. The sessions were presented by the International Forum for Education 2020, an initiative of the East-West Center to foster educational change in a rapidly changing region.

Twenty-five individuals from five countries — China, Thailand, India, the United States and the Philippines — attended the four-week program at the Center in Honolulu. They exchanged ideas and innovative ways to restructure education to meet emerging needs in a globalized 21st century.

Working from case studies drawn from educational experiences in their countries, participants identified key challenges, including how to honor values and needs of minority populations in their schools, how to improve teacher quality, how to improve the students' school experience and the retention rate at all levels of education, and how to create better assessment systems.

Several noted scholars worked with the participants, including educator Tony Wagner who facilitated the discussions at the conclusion of the month-long institute. Wagner is co-director of the Change Leadership Group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

He cautioned that an educational system cannot be transformed all at once. "You need to develop a research and development capability," he said, which successful creative companies such as Microsoft recognize. "No system can innovate without R & D."

He said the educators need to ask their respective governments, "What is our R & D budget for education? So many of the changes we've talked about are not going to happen all at once. There is no one answer." He suggested that meeting the educational challenges of this century will require new ways of working together as well as new ways of teaching, learning and assessment.

Participants agreed to work together through the Internet after the institute in Honolulu, with regional sessions planned in each country after six months to assist in the development of action plans. Participants will return to the Center next September to present these plans and meet participants in the second Education Leadership Institute.

Notes and Quotes

From
"China's Muscle Getting Bigger"
By Peter Krouse
In the
Cleveland Plain Dealer
November 19, 2005

China cannot be ignored.

The Asian nation of 1.3 billion people is rapidly becoming the second most important country in the world after the United States. It adds girth to its economic muscle every year.

Consider the U.S. trade deficit with China. It stood at $34 billion in 1995. Last year, it went over $160 billion.

So, when President Bush lands in Beijing this weekend, the world will be watching and listening. …

Chris McNally, China specialist with the East-West Center in Hawai'i, believes the United States and China should have regular summits to build rapport and trust from the leaders on down.

"This is a very complex relationship," he said.

From
"U.S. Troops Downsize in Asia"
By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press
November 16, 2005

YONGSAN GARRISON, SOUTH KOREA — The United States and Japan have just agreed to the most sweeping changes in the deployments there in recent memory, a plan that — along with basing a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier just south of Tokyo — includes the withdrawal of about 7,000 of the 18,000 Marines on the crowded island of Okinawa.

Sheila Smith, an analyst with the private East-West Center in Honolulu, says the aim is to streamline, but not undermine, the alliance.

"Rather than planning for fixed contingencies, such as the defense of an ally, the U.S. Department of Defense would like to retain flexibility over the deployment of its military, and access to facilities and bases around the globe," she wrote recently. "Japan has embraced these priorities for its own military, and so the alliance now places a premium on joint operations and the interoperability of the (Japanese military) and U.S. forces in the region."

From
"Japan, in Contest with China, Will Pressure Russia for Oil"
Bloomberg.com
October 17, 2005

Japanese officials, concerned China will receive most of Siberia's $18 billion in annual oil and gas exports, will urge Russian President Vladimir Putin to accelerate plans to build an oil pipeline to Japan.

At stake is untapped oil that would supply Japan for nine years, and enough gas to meet the nation's needs for seven decades. Japan plans to use a visit by Putin to Tokyo next month to push for an $11.5 billion Siberian oil pipeline directed to the Pacific, and not China. Russia is the world's second-largest oil producer, and Japan imports 99 percent of its fuel needs.

"The overall situation favors China compared to only a year ago," said Kang Wu, a research fellow at the Honolulu-based East-West Center. "For the next 10 years China will need much more oil, and we know that Japanese demand is merely stable."

From
"India, China Eye Nepal Amid Democracy Woes"
By Krishnadev Calamur
United Press International
December 13, 2005

WASHINGTON — India said Tuesday it wanted China to play a key role in bringing about the restoration of democracy in Nepal. This came about after reports emerged last week that Nepal, going around an arms embargo imposed by New Delhi and others, was buying weapons from China. …

Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, following meetings with (King) Gyanendra and Nepalese political parties, did not directly criticize the Chinese move, but noted all nations must have an interest in political reconciliation in Nepal.

Experts say the rivalry over the Himalayan kingdom may not amount to much because in the long run, because of past precedent, Nepal is likely to stick with India's influence over China's.

"China has offered to sell them mainly small arms, which is not really going to affect the military balance. Nepal has always used China as a balance against India and it has worked badly and therein lies a built-in regulator," said Itty Abraham, a research fellow at the East-West Center in Washington.

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