

# International Conference in Bali Reflects the Center's 'Unity in Diversity'



**"We have to make the 21st century a century of progress and peace," Minister Bakrie stated. "Let us avoid the fate of the previous century, with its world wars and bloody conflicts. The opportunities are plenty to make our world a much better place."**





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“The region of Asia and the Pacific has become a growing force in the 21st century,” stated The Honorable Aburizal Bakrie, Indonesia’s Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare, to the gathering of 533 scholars, officials, and business professionals from 45 countries at the EWC/EWCA 2008 International Conference in Bali, Indonesia in November 2008. “In the present global configuration, Asia Pacific is no longer merely a marketplace for global consumption, but a center of production and dissemination of goods, ideas, and culture,” Bakrie said.

The conference opened with welcoming remarks from Bakrie along with the Governor of Bali and the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, followed by the keynote address by East-West Center President Charles E. Morrison. Other featured presenters included Indonesia’s Minister of Women’s Empowerment, Meutia Swasono; Hawai’i Governor Linda Lingle; U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Academic Programs Thomas Farrell; EWC Board of Governors Chairman Puongpun Sananikone; and EWCA President Lawrence Foster.

Leading up to the conference, the EWC alumni Chapter Leaders Workshop drew 31 members together to discuss the EWCA Strategic Plan and related issues of how to best support the Center and how to use advanced technology to enhance communications within the EWC/EWCA community.

Conference presentations covered topics ranging from health to education, from culture to business, from human rights and social justice leadership to the environment. Cultural highlights included entertainment hosted by Indonesia’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism and a traditional Indonesian music and dance performance arranged by alumnus Garrett Kam. Honored for their accomplishments and service to the EWCA were U Maung Maung, Joe Overton, Didin Sastrapradja, Claire Richmond, A. Seshan, Dennis Zvinakis,



*Above: Hawai’i Gov. Linda Lingle with EWC President Charles E. Morrison (left) and Board Chair Puongpun Sananikone (right) greeting Indonesia’s Coordinating Minister Aburizal Bakrie. Bottom: EWC Alumni Officer Gordon Ring (left) and EWCA President Lawrence Foster (right) with members of the conference coordinating committee: (L to R) Nasti Reksodiputro, Sarlito Sarwono, Irid Agoes, and Anak Muninjaya.*

Kuldeep Mathur, and Riley Lee. Alumni Chapters in Bangkok, Thailand and Dhaka, Bangladesh both received an outstanding alumni chapter award.

U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Cameron R. Hume told the group that “over many years, our Embassy has greatly valued the work of the East-West Center and its alumni in promoting international education and fostering mutual understanding. We know that Center programs build invaluable professional and personal relationships, enhance awareness and promote informed dialog.”

“We also know you serve the broader community,” Ambassador Hume added. “We were impressed when the East-West Center Tsunami Relief Fund generated more than \$500,000 to assist with relief efforts and provide long-term support through education and research programs.”

In his keynote address to the gathering, East-West Center President Charles E. Morrison observed that the conference’s theme of “Unity in Diversity” was inspired by Indonesia’s national motto, which in turn comes from an ancient Javanese poem proclaiming that “there is no duality in truth.”

“It is a beautiful thought — to respect and treasure diversity, while being united by fundamental values and principles,” Morrison said, adding that the concept of unity in diversity was also embodied in the creation of the East-West Center.

One of the most important measures of the Center’s success, Morrison told the alumni gathering, has been the achievements of its graduates.

“The intellectual and policy contributions of the East-West Center are not simply those of its own staff, important as these are,” he said. “They are also your accomplishments in your own societies and professions and those of the other 55,000 alumni... Your continuing engagement in our activities confirms the relevance of our institution and its expanding network.”

