

RESEARCH

The Center's Research Program addresses issues of policy significance to the U.S. and the Asia Pacific region. The Program is organized into four broad areas: 1) Politics, Governance and Security; 2) Economics; 3) Environmental Change, Vulnerability, and Governance; and 4) Population and Health.



The Economy

Michael Plummer, a Non-Resident Senior Fellow, led a U.S.A.I.D.-funded study on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), an ambitious program to create a single market and production base in Southeast Asia by 2015. The study found that this development would have substantially more impact than the creation of the E.U.

Fellow Chris McNally published *China's Emergent Political Economy – Capitalism in the Dragon's Lair*.



Politics, Governance and Human Rights

As part of the Asia-Pacific Governance and Democracy Initiative, Senior Fellow Shabbir Cheema is working on several projects related to civil society engagement in democratic governance processes at the national and global levels. With funding from the U.N. Development Programme, Harvard University, and other donors, he organized two high level regional workshops.

David Cohen and Michelle Stags, Director and Deputy Director of the EWC-U.C. Berkeley Asian International Justice Initiative (AIJI) presented their concept of an ASEAN Human Rights Resource Center to the ASEAN Secretariat and are collaborating with the Secretariat to advance the concept. They continued trainings and public outreach in preparation for the Khmer Rouge trials in Cambodia. The inaugural AIJI Summer Institute on Humanitarian Law and Human Rights was held in Bangkok in June. Also in June, the Indonesian Supreme Court Chief Justice signed a five-year agreement to continue the human rights training for Indonesian judges and others that began in 2004.

Top: Senior Fellow Kang Wu speaking on Capitol Hill about Asia's energy future. Center: EWC AIJI Director David Cohen (right) congratulating Indonesia's Supreme Court Chief Justice Bagir Manan after signing the human rights training agreement.

Regional Health and Environmental Challenges

Senior Fellow Tim Brown was a major architect of the recently launched Report of the Commission on AIDS in Asia, "Redefining AIDS in Asia: Crafting an Effective Response."

Senior Fellow Jeff Fox received a NASA grant in excess of \$800,000 to study the environmental implications of the expansion of rubber plantations in montane mainland Southeast Asia.

EWC International Conferences: EWC researchers were involved with the organization of several international conferences including:

- **2008 EWC-Korea Energy Economics Institute Conference** "Energy Security in the North Pacific"
- **The Pacific Climate Information System (PaCIS) Steering and Working Group Meeting** in support of the NOAA funded Pacific Regional Integrated Climate Assessment (RISA), one of nine in the U.S.
- **Building Trust in Government Through Innovations in Governance in Asia and the Pacific** in support of the Asia-Pacific Governance and Democracy Initiative
- **Near-Roadway and On-Road Exposures to Air Pollution: Risk Communication and Decision Making**, Bangkok, Thailand with support from the National Science Foundation

Information about EWC publications is available at: EastWestCenter.org/pubs



PIDP

The Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) is the research arm and secretariat to the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, an organization founded at the Center in 1980 composed of all 22 island governments in Oceania. PIDP also publishes a Web-based daily news service and engages in conflict management and mediation with ongoing efforts in Fiji and the Kingdom of Tonga.

In October 2008, PIDP Director Sitiveni Halapua helped facilitate the first dialogue between Fiji's political leaders on opposite sides of the conflict. To further promote stability in the region, PIDP, together with the UNDP, conducted a meeting with Tongan parliamentarians to discuss their county's Constitutional reform process.