

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Office of External Affairs connects the resources and research of the East-West Center with the local, national, and international community through news media and public information services; briefings for visiting officials; and public affairs, community relations, and public programs. In 2008, External Affairs cosponsored 16 public programs for Hawai'i audiences. This office also comprises the Arts Program, the EWC Alumni Office, and EWC program representatives in the Asia Pacific region.

## News and Information

The News and Information section serves as a liaison between the Center and journalists worldwide. Media coverage of the East-West Center continued to reach new audiences in 2008, enhancing the Center's capacity to inform policymakers and the general public. The Center and its staff were cited by national and international media sources in more than 1,700 reports and op-eds.

## Arts Program

The East-West Center Arts Program increases understanding of cultures and ethnic groups from the Asia Pacific region through exhibitions, performances, lecture-demonstrations, and hands-on workshops. In 2008, more than 20,000 adults and youth experienced EWC's arts programs. Outreach initiatives targeted 'at-risk' youth by conducting school programs in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Gallery exhibitions for 2008 included: "Material Choices: Bast and Leaf Fiber Textiles in Asia and the Pacific;" "Unseen Visions: Contemporary Painting in Pakistan;" "Altogether: Contemporary Papua New Guinea Art;" and "Field of Flowers: Mughal Carpets and Treasures." In addition, a special conservation initiative focused on the "EWC's Permanent Collection as a Resource for the Community." Performances featured Qawwali Music from Pakistan, Saman Dance from Aceh, Indonesia, and the Royal Thai Dancers and Musicians from the Fine Arts Department of the Royal Thai Government.



## East-West Center Alumni

The East-West Center Association (EWCA) is an international network of more than 55,000 professionals who have participated in East-West Center programs. EWCA provides many programs and services for its members designed to support the Center's mission to help build an Asia Pacific community and to extend the outreach of the East-West Center.

In 2008, new alumni chapters were established in Aceh, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Ontario, Canada bringing the total to 47 chapters. EWCA provided 10 student scholarships and 10 travel grants for field research or participation in professional conferences. The alumni mentoring program also matched 35 EWC students with professionals in the local community. More than 530 participants attended the EWC/EWCA 2008 International Conference in Bali, Indonesia (see *Highlight section*, p. 6).

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*Top: Master musicians from Pakistan enchanted audience members with their Sufi-inspired Qawwali music. Center above: (L to R) Timor-Leste Foreign Affairs Minister Zacarias Albano da Costa, EWC President Charles E. Morrison, and U.S. Ambassador to Timor-Leste Hans Klemm speaking at an EWC public program. Center middle: Visiting EWC Artist-in-Residence Ayoob Khan from India teaching Mughal carpet weaving techniques to a local Hawai'i student. Center bottom: The EWCA Nepal Alumni Chapter reaches out in support of Bal Bhojan, an NGO that cares for street children in Kathmandu.*