

# East-West Center in Washington

Established in 2001 to expand the Center's outreach in the U.S. capital, East-West Center in Washington works to strengthen relations and understanding among the governments and peoples of the Asia Pacific region and the United States through research, publications, and substantive programs. Numerous public forums featuring key government officials and scholars, as well as military, business, and NGO leaders, generated discussion on critical issues in U.S.-Asia Pacific relations.

## Promoting American Engagement in Asia Pacific Affairs

### Asia Pacific Seminar Series

The Asia Pacific seminar series continued to provide an important venue for the dissemination of new research and discussion in Washington D.C. In 2009, 38 seminars were held in the areas of Asia Pacific security, democracy and human rights, and political economy. Featured speakers included The Honorable Meera Shankar, Indian Ambassador to the United States, and The Honorable James R. Keith, U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia.



In an Asia Pacific Political Economy Seminar, (L-R) EWC in Washington Director Satu Limaye; Indian Ambassador Meera Shankar; and President and Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Harsh Pati Singhania and Amit Mitra, discuss U.S.-Indian relations.

## Research Projects

### Asia Matters for America

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org, an on-line resource for information, data, and analysis of U.S.-Asia interactions, has drawn over 15,000 page views from 97 countries. In November, the *Asia Matters for America* brochure was distributed to each office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### Global Asia Special Edition

The East-West Center in Washington and the journal *Global Asia* cooperated to publish the November 2009 edition featuring the multi-article cover story "In the National Interest: Economics, Security, and Foreign Affairs in Southeast Asia." The publication is the culmination of a collaborative research project that explored the relationship between economics, security, and multilateralism in the foreign policy of five Southeast Asian nations.

"The Long Shadow: Nuclear Weapons and Security in 21st Century Asia," edited by EWC Distinguished Senior Fellow Muthiah Alagappa, received the 2009 Outstanding Academic Title Award from *Choice* magazine.



Derek Mitchell, Principal U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs speaking at "The Malaysia – United States Strategic Partnership Conference," co-hosted by EWC in Washington.

### U.S.-China South Asia Dialogue

The East-West Center, in collaboration with the China Institute of International Studies and Yunnan University, sponsored a dialogue in Kunming, China featuring U.S., P.R.C., and Indian participants focusing on South Asia security issues, policy on Afghanistan and Pakistan (AfPak), and prospects for future regional cooperation. This was the first in a projected series of discussions about AfPak.

Connie Rahakundini Bakrie, Executive Director of the Institute of Defense and Security Studies (IODAS), Jakarta; and Sidratahta Mukhtar, IODAS Senior Researcher, discuss Indonesian military and defense challenges in an Asia Pacific Security Seminar.

### United States Asia Pacific Council (USAPC)

Formed in 2003 with the support of the U.S. Department of State, USAPC promotes and facilitates greater U.S. engagement with the Asia Pacific region through personal networks and institutional partnerships.

In conjunction with its annual Washington Conference in May, USAPC hosted the 18th General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) focusing on "Economic Crisis and Recovery: Roles for Asia-Pacific Economies" (see conference highlights on p. 4).

USAPC also hosted an APEC Business Coalition meeting in December, which featured a briefing by U.S. Senior Official for APEC Kurt Tong and Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Wendy Cutler on the November 2009 APEC Leaders' meeting in Singapore.