

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 2009, External Affairs cosponsored 20 public programs for Hawai'i audiences and also organized two events welcoming U.S. Ambassadors and Public Affairs Officers to the Center. This office also comprises the Arts Program, the EWC Alumni Office, and EWC program representatives in the Asia Pacific region.



Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou was greeted by EWC President Charles E. Morrison during a visit to the Center.

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 2009, 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 2,100 reports and op-eds.

Member of the Ariw Poenipan Cultural Group from the Torres Strait Islands, Australia, demonstrating the use of a traditional percussion instrument to Hawai'i students.

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 2009, 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 2009 incorporated public performances and lecture demonstrations on: "Mirror & Mirage: Japanese Noh and Kyogen Theatre;" "Drums & Drama: Mask Dance from Sri Lanka;" "Cosmic Creatures: Textiles from Northeast Lao Communities;" and "Dance Machines" from the Torres Strait Islands."

Additional performances featured master Kathak dancer Chitresh Das and expert musicians from India, and traditional Chinese musicians from Xiamen University.



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 2009, the 48 alumni chapters carried out a broad range of activities to strengthen the alumni network including lectures, seminars, welcoming new and returning students, raising funds, and providing hospitality to traveling participants. Web communication was increased including alumni groups on Facebook and LinkedIn and improvements to the EWCA on-line community. Over 3,000 new alumni email addresses were added to the database. Additionally, EWCA provided 4 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.