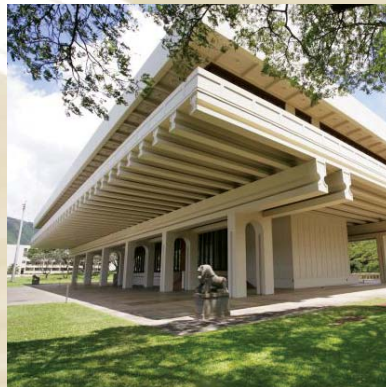


# EAST-WEST CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2004



EAST-WEST CENTER

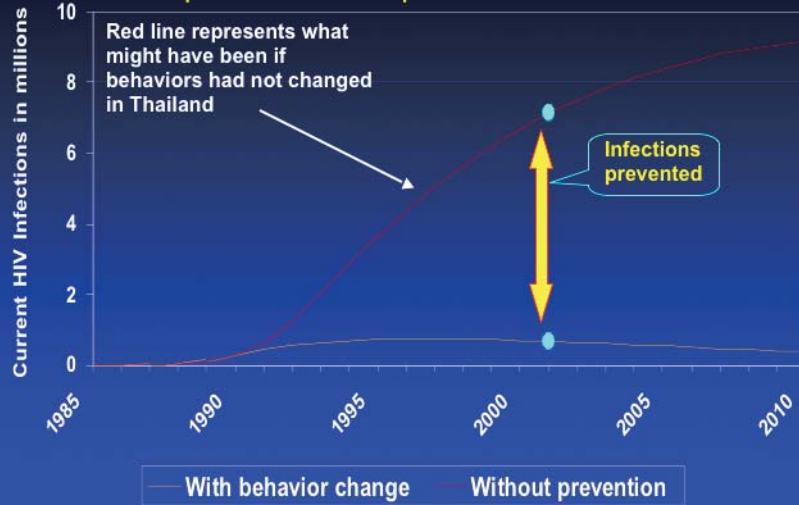
EAST-WEST CENTER RESEARCH TARGETS

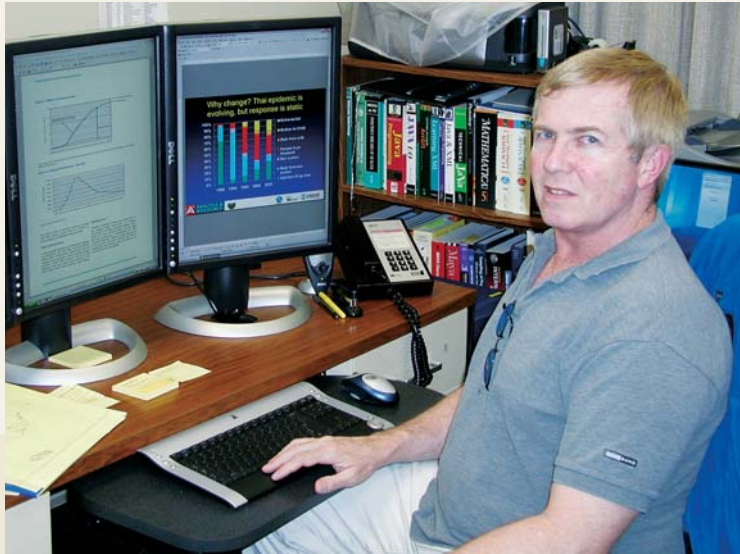
# Asia's HIV/AIDS Epidemic

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## Good news - focused prevention works

### The impact of focused prevention in Thailand





*Senior Research Fellow Tim Brown tracks the spread of HIV/AIDS in Asia.*

One of the largest, long-term health risks in the Asia Pacific region is the growth of HIV/AIDS infections. UNAIDS and the Asian Development Bank have projected that more than 10 million people in the region could be infected with HIV by 2010 unless governments address the health concern much more aggressively.

To help meet this challenge East-West Center Senior Research Fellow Tim Brown and Thai colleague Wiwat Peerapatanapokin have developed a model based on behavioral patterns to explore variations in the rate of HIV/AIDS growth in Asia. This allows researchers to determine which factors most influence the spread of the disease—and enables governments to target prevention policies most effectively.

The Asian Epidemic Model demonstrates that a primary factor controlling the rate of growth of HIV infection in many Asian countries is the large proportion of men who are clients of sex workers. In countries like Thailand and Cambodia, where up to 20 percent of adult men were clients of sex workers in the early 1990s, the infection spread rapidly until prevention programs focused on at-risk populations helped to bring HIV levels down.

The model was originally developed for Thailand, where HIV infections among young Thai men have fallen from 4 percent a decade ago to 1 percent today due to aggressive prevention. Now, Brown and his colleagues are applying the model to other countries such as China, Indonesia and Bangladesh, where fewer than one in five sex workers uses condoms consistently.

Brown's and Wiwat's research suggests that while Asian epidemics will probably never rise to the levels seen in Sub-Saharan Africa, prevalence rates for the region as a whole could easily reach 2-5 percent over the next two decades if effective prevention programs are not implemented. This is especially significant in China and India, where a 1 percent increase in prevalence in either country would add 5 million to the global total of individuals infected with HIV.

Last summer Brown coordinated a seminar at the East-West Center on integrated analysis that drew 30 researchers from Vietnam, Bangladesh, China, Thailand and India. He also received two significant grants last year, including nearly \$270,000 from UNAIDS. The other grant, more than \$290,000 from the Family Health International/USAID, supports his work with EWC Senior Fellow Jiajian Chen and regional colleagues to implement a process of integrated analysis and advocacy to improve HIV responses in Bangladesh, China, Thailand and Vietnam.

# *Talanoa* Dialogue IN FIJI INTENSIFIES — *Tok Stori* for Peace BEGINS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

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*Seated from left to right: PIDP Director Sitiveni Halapua; Mahendra Pal Chaudhry, leader of the Fiji Labor Party; Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase of Fiji; and EWC President Charles E. Morrison.*



Community leaders gather in Fiji for Talanoa Dialogue.

The East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) has played a pivotal role in creating an environment for constructive engagement following periods of civil discord and political instability in Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

Since the coup in Fiji in late 2000, PIDP has facilitated a series of high-level discussions (the *Talanoa* Dialogue) in an effort to promote interethnic harmony and national unity. In 2004, *talanoa* advanced into a more intense and action-oriented phase as subcommittees involving members of the Fiji Cabinet and shadow Cabinet members met to develop working documents in the areas of land reform, sugar reform, constitutional reform, and race relations. These documents were then brought into Parliament as terms of reference for Parliamentary committees on sugar-industry reform and agricultural land leases.

The latest sessions in the *Talanoa* Dialogue series heralded progress on major issues facing Fiji, as Fiji's Parliament moved last year to establish committees on sugar-industry reform and agricultural land leases.

Using the Polynesian concept of *talanoa* as a founding principle for dialogue among key representatives of the indigenous Fijian and Indo-Fijian communities, PIDP has conducted seven plenary sessions and numerous sub-committee meetings. *Talanoa* is based on the principles of reconciliation, inclusion, honesty and mutual respect. The meetings are an open forum for addressing differing perspectives on such sensitive issues as land use, constitutional change and race relations.

In thanking the East-West Center and its Pacific Islands Development Program for organizing talks that have led to bipartisan agreement on critical issues, Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase noted, "The *talanoa* discussions are another example of what Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara named the 'Pacific Way,' — a way of discussing issues, drawing on the island traditions of consensus."

Lessons drawn from the *talanoa* process also provided a framework for the "*Tok Stori* for Peace" project in the Solomon Islands. Beginning in 2004 the East-West Center initiated the *tok stori* project in cooperation with the Solomon Islands' National Peace Council (NPC) to promote conflict resolution through dialogue and training. The NPC, successor to the Peace Monitoring Council, is the central government body that supports institutions devoted to peace and reconciliation.

In a related effort, PIDP and the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) collaborated on a workshop last year in response to civil unrest that resulted in the government's request for a multinational peacekeeping force led by Australia. The workshop, "Beyond Intervention: Navigating Solomon Islands' Future," brought together a cross-section of Solomon Islanders to address such issues as how to resolve conflicts, rebuild the struggling economy, and strengthen the capacity of state and civil communities to maintain law and order and provide basic services.

The U.S. Department of State helps fund both programs.

# FORD FOUNDATION'S International Fellowships Program BRINGS NEW STUDENTS TO EWC

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*Muhammad Jailani  
in a pensive moment  
at the Friendship  
Circle and Gardens  
near Burns Hall.*

## **IFP Student Sets Sights on Strengthening Child Labor Laws in Indonesia**

**Muhammad Jailani, 31, comes from Medan on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, about 200 miles southeast of the provincial capital of Banda Aceh, one of the areas hardest hit by the Indian Ocean tsunami on Dec. 26. Prior to his enrollment in the East-West Center's International Fellowships Program (IFP) in 2003, he served as executive director of the Education and Information Center for Child Rights, an NGO dedicated to the empowerment and protection of exploited children. As an advocate for the strengthening of Indonesia's fledgling child labor laws, Jailani has sought to protect children consigned to fishing platforms in the Strait of Malacca, where kids as young as age 7 toil in virtual bondage, earning the equivalent of \$3 a month.**

Since the December tragedy, the plight of children in Indonesia has worsened, and Jailani hopes to return to his homeland to help eliminate child labor. "We need effective instruments to protect children," he said, "not only money and laws, but also dedicated police and social workers, and a good educational system accessible to even the poorest children." He is currently earning a master's degree in sociology through the IFP program.



*The International Fellowships Program provides a supportive community for graduate study.*

Exceptional men and women from marginalized populations in the Asia Pacific region have increased opportunities for advanced study at the East-West Center because of a unique educational program made possible through partnerships with the Ford Foundation and the University of Hawai'i. Last year 25 students from regional towns and rural areas of China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam were accepted into the International Fellowships Program (IFP), bringing to 47 the total number of students enrolled. This is the largest concentration of IFP students studying at any institution in the world.

The International Fellowships Program provides support for up to three years of graduate-level study to candidates from social groups and communities that lack access to higher education abroad. Fellows are chosen on the basis of leadership potential and commitment to community or national service, and may pursue any academic discipline or field of study consistent with the goals of the East-West Center and the Ford Foundation. Areas of study include reducing poverty and injustice, promoting international cooperation, and advancing human achievement.

The IFP is a significant opportunity for individuals who come from groups or communities that historically have had little access to advanced education. They include women, people who represent particular ethnic, racial or religious groups, and those who live in remote areas under-served by urban-based institutions.

Many IFP participants come to the East-West Center with experience in community service or development-related activities in their home countries. Once enrolled in the program, students determine how they will apply their studies in addressing social challenges, and are encouraged to work on these issues following the fellowship period.

Because students from marginalized populations often have minimal English proficiency, the development of language skills is part of the pre-fellowship process. The East-West Center works with IFP country offices and the University of Hawai'i to provide remedial and preparatory coursework to improve English proficiency. The Center has played an important role in helping IFP make adjustments to the original program design, which did not include pre-academic training at host institutions.

At \$280 million for scholarships worldwide, the IFP is the largest single program ever supported by the Ford Foundation, and is expected to provide grant funding through 2010. IFP students joining the East-West Center in 2004 were among 364 students from 43 countries enrolled in various education programs. With IFP and other additions, by the end of the year the Center's overall student community was larger than it had been in more than three decades.

# Nearly 400 Alumni Gather in Tokyo

FOR EWC/EAST-WEST CENTER ASSOCIATION  
2004 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE







*EWC/EWCA 2004 International Conference participants gather at Nihon University in Tokyo, Japan.*

Since its establishment 45 years ago, the East-West Center has built its own Asia Pacific community rich in diversity and dedicated to the pursuit of regional understanding. Much of the credit for the strength and cohesion of the EWC network belongs to the East-West Center Association, whose alumni chapters are the life-blood of this dynamic and expanding membership.

More than 375 East-West Center alumni from 25 countries met in Tokyo, Japan, last summer for the EWC/East-West Center Association 2004 International Conference. Held for only the second time in Japan, the gathering provided alumni with a unique opportunity to demonstrate their connection to the Center, friends and professional colleagues throughout the region, while engaging in an academically rich experience.

The academic core of the conference featured plenary sessions grouped under the theme, “New Challenges for Building an Asia Pacific Community.” Topics included the Japanese recession and its impact on the region, the changing dynamic of international relations, and education initiatives in the twenty-first century. Panel presentations and roundtable discussions addressed a number of significant regional issues, including economic integration, women’s issues, the challenges of aging populations, information technology and economic and security developments.

The conference included a training program for alumni chapter leaders to hone leadership skills and better serve their members. Participants addressed the challenges of serving alumni of all age groups. Other topics included recruitment for EWC programs and the support of student scholarships.

University of Hawai’i Interim President David McClain spoke of the strong connection between UH and the East-West Center and cooperative programs that have benefited alumni of both institutions.

Overall, it was an emotional time for many alumni, who reflected on their connection to the East-West Center and its significance in their personal and professional development. Many expressed support for the Center in the form of monetary pledges, including alumni from the 1960s, who raised nearly a quarter of a million dollars for a scholarship endowment fund.

# Corazon Aquino Honored

## WITH ASIA PACIFIC COMMUNITY BUILDING AWARD

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*Corazon Aquino was the first woman president of the Philippines. She held the office from 1986 to 1992.*



*Back row: AIG Hawai'i President and CEO Robin Campaniano; EWC alumna Amy Agbayani, Hawai'i Supreme Court Judge Mario Ramil; and Eddie Flores, member of the EWC Board of Governors. Front row: Gov. Linda Lingle and former President Corazon Aquino.*



*EWC Board of Governors Chair Roland Lagareta (center) and EWC President Charles E. Morrison present Corazon Aquino with the East-West Center Community Building Award.*

The East-West Center Foundation presented former Philippine President Corazon Aquino with the Asia Pacific Community Building Award for her ongoing efforts to restore democracy, reduce poverty and promote national unity in her native country. She accepted the award in the name of the “selfless Filipinos who have put in the hard work of building our communities in the spirit of People Power.”

Nearly 1,000 people attended the EWC Foundation’s annual dinner in Honolulu, where Aquino delivered an address on the People Power People Movement she launched in 2003 to support non-governmental organizations working in impoverished communities in the Philippines. Aquino’s community building activities are an extension of nearly two decades of work dedicated to the educational, economic and political empowerment of the Filipino people.

“I want to refocus attention to the continuing challenge of liberating the poor from poverty and paving the way for our unity as a nation,” Aquino said. “While we must always be ready to do battle with the enemies of freedom and democracy when the need arises, we must be constant and sustained in our efforts to harness resources and energy for the creation of a truly empowered and harmonious national community.”

In the past few years Aquino has focused on civil organizations in an effort to empower poor Filipinos seeking to improve their lives and transform their communities. Religious organizations have been deeply involved in the fight against poverty, building shelters and creating livelihood programs in economically depressed areas.

The former president established the People Power People Movement, in part, to raise awareness of the significance of public service in revitalizing communities. The movement is intended to document the achievements of volunteers and organizations that encourage and enable positive changes at the grassroots level of society.

Aquino likened her efforts to the work the East-West Center has been doing on a regional scale for 45 years: “By bringing together professionals and students from the United States, Asia and the Pacific to study and share issues of common and critical concern, and explore mutually beneficial ways of addressing them, you have helped build a peaceful and harmonious Asia Pacific Community,” she said.

Past recipients of the Asia Pacific Community Building Award include Dr. Genshitsu (Soshitsu XV) Sen (2003), for his promotion of Japanese culture and world peace; and Indian philanthropist Ratan N. Tata (2002), for forging closer relations between India, the United States and the nations of the Asia Pacific region.