



EAST-WEST CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

# East–West Center

## 2020–2021



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## [ OUR MISSION ]

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.



**Dr. James Scott**  
Chair of the  
EWC Board of  
Governors



**Dr. Richard R. Vuylsteke**  
EWC President

## Aloha, friends and colleagues,

In the months since early 2020, the world has been gripped by a pandemic, experienced the accelerating effects of climate change, and, particularly in the United States, confronted deep racial and economic disparities. The East-West Center community has responded with a deepened commitment to our mission of bringing people together to increase understanding and address critical issues.

Indeed, many of our work priorities in the region, including climate change adaptation, sustainable economic development, promoting free and open civil societies, and increased health and food security, became even more critical in the context of the pandemic and other developments.

The pandemic has also changed dramatically what it means to “bring people together.” Suddenly, there were new ways to do everything, from caring for students in the international

dorms to shifting from conference rooms to virtual meetings with participants from time zones around the globe. Thanks to the Center’s remarkable, innovative staff, we have significantly increased our operational and strategic capabilities by expanding virtual programming, fostering new partnerships, and providing a broad spectrum of support to practitioners and thought leaders in the United States and the Indo-Pacific.

East-West Center remains an effective cross-national, cross-cultural, cross-sectoral convener in our region. Working with its many collaborators, the Center has helped advance US public diplomacy through programs that uniquely empower and connect participants—connections that this year have provided an especially valuable antidote to the fragmenting and isolating effects of the pandemic. This report gives selected highlights from an extremely active year. We welcome any comments and questions.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. James Scott**  
**Dr. Richard R. Vuylsteke**

“

**East-West Center  
is a uniquely effective  
cross-national, cross-  
cultural, cross-sectoral  
convener in the  
Indo-Pacific region”**



# Our Organization

An overview of EWC by department

The [Education Program](#) prepares the next generation to meet the complex challenges facing Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. The Center provides scholarships for graduate study at the University of Hawai'i and a multicultural learning community in the Center's residence halls. Program activities specifically designed for our students address leadership and professional development and the promotion of understanding and problem solving across disciplinary, cultural, and national boundaries.

The [Professional Development Program](#) conducts capacity building, leadership training, professional exchanges, and career development for academics, journalists, and young leaders from Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. [Leadership programs](#) create communities of action leading to a more peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia-Pacific region. [Seminars & Journalism programs](#) deepen knowledge and networks of regional policymakers and media professionals. Other signature activities include [Asian Studies Development Program](#), [Experiential Professional Development](#), [Pacific Islands Media Initiative](#), and [Pacific Islands Tourism Professional Fellows](#).

For 40 years, the [Pacific Islands Development Program \(PIDP\)](#) at EWC has served as a regional organization and convening

hub for 20 Pacific countries and territories. PIDP supports the nations and peoples of the Pacific through interchange among regional leaders, innovative capacity-building programs, and policy-relevant research to improve livelihoods and advance the region's Blue Pacific priorities. PIDP is the secretariat of the [Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders](#) and a founding member of the [Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific](#) within the Pacific Islands Forum.

The [Research Program](#) executes policy-relevant, actionable research projects in four key areas: climate change and the environment; regional geopolitics; public health (HIV/AIDS and COVID-19); and economics and demographic change. Flagship projects include [Agrarian Transition in South East Asia](#); [National Transfer Accounts](#) with UC Berkeley; [HIV/AIDS modeling and estimation projects](#) in collaboration with UNAIDS, Avenir Health, and the Global Fund; the [Pacific Drought Knowledge Exchange](#); the [North Pacific Artic Conference](#) with the Korea Maritime Institute; the International Research and Applications Project with NOAA; and the [Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments](#) (Pacific RISA) Program.

[East-West Center in Washington](#) provides US and regional government stakeholders and program partners with innovative training, analytical and dialogue exchange, and public-diplomacy products to meet US policy priorities and expressed needs in the Indo-Pacific region. The [Asia Matters for America](#) initiative is a signature example of a widely used multi-stakeholder resource. Other core programs include joint initiatives with US congressional caucuses, [congressional staff training programs](#), [Young Professionals Program](#), briefings for government officials, [visiting fellowships](#), and the [Asia-Pacific Bulletin](#) series of foreign affairs analyses.

[Communications & External Relations \(CER\)](#) advances the Center's mission through policy-relevant publications, convening events and briefings, and cross-programmatic outreach and engagement projects. CER publishes news, analysis, and commentary in the [East-West Wire](#), [AsiaPacific Issues](#), and [Policy Studies](#). The [EWC Arts Program](#) presents performances and exhibitions and builds communities of artists and performers across the region. [EWC Insights](#) virtual events include series on Pacific Leaders, Asia-Pacific Environmental Transitions, China Seminars, and more. CER leads the implementation of two Center-wide grant projects: the [BASE Project](#) and [PROJECT Governance](#).

[The Office of Alumni Engagement \(OAE\)](#) works to keep alumni informed, engaged, and connected with EWC programs and staff through the East-West Center Association (EWCA) and its 53 chapters globally. EWCA is an international network of 68,000 professionals who have an affiliation with East-West Center and are dedicated to its mission.



# Expanding Impact through Online Events

After the pandemic forced the shut-down of in-person events, programs across the Center began a push to develop virtual engagement. In May 2020, we enhanced the [EWC Events](#) page to showcase our digital outreach. Since then, the Center has publicized and hosted 262 virtual events on topics ranging from arts and culture to politics and international relations, social issues, and much more.

Moving online has made the Center's events more accessible, boosting their impact and reach. Now all our diverse audiences—policy-makers, alumni, students, media, the general public—from across the Indo-Pacific region can tune into events that might have been previously available only to participants in Honolulu or Washington. Overall, nearly 50,000 people have attended EWC virtual events, and around 65,000 have viewed them online later.

This major expansion of EWC convening power through online events has been



The Center facilitated events that celebrate Pacific cultures, such as the Celebrate Micronesia Festival, a partnership with Micronesian communities and the Bishop Museum. The hybrid event drew more than a thousand people to the museum grounds and attracted many more online.

a Center-wide effort. For example, the Professional Development Program held 78 virtual events, including series on media freedom, artificial intelligence, and women's leadership. Highlights from the Arts Program's 52 events include hosting the *Celebrate Micronesia Festival*—the first hybrid cultural festival in Hawai'i—and livestreaming *Play for the Vote Hawai'i*. Each of these events had over 12,000 live, online attendees. East-West Center in Washington reinforced the Center's key contribution to US and regional foreign-policy discussions with 49 events on Indo-Pacific security and trade issues.

## **EWC Insights: Living in the Shadow of Delta**

Unsurprisingly amid the pandemic, a virtual event featuring EWC expertise on public health took top billing overall. At the height of the Delta surge in Hawai'i, CER produced an EWC Insights webinar featuring Dr. Tim Brown, a senior fellow with the Research Program, drew 224 online attendees and nearly 15,500 views of the webinar recording. Following the event, media outlets featured Dr. Brown's assessments in numerous national articles and news segments.

## EWC Events At a Glance May 2020 -Sept 2021

**9**  
DEPARTMENTS

**262\***  
VIRTUAL EVENTS

**47,843\*\***  
LIVE ATTENDEES

**115,145\*\*\***  
TOTAL VIEWERSHIP

\*Total virtual events count is based on events added to the Events section on the East-West Center website

\*\*Participants count is individuals who attended the virtual event live or viewed the Livestream on YouTube or Facebook based on data provided by department representatives

\*\*\*Total viewership is live attendees plus later video views





# Caring for Students During the Pandemic

As universities closed across the United States in spring 2020, East-West Center remained an open and safe shelter for its students.



**OUR COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS, ALUMNI, DONORS, STAFF, AND LOCAL PARTNERS** joined the Education Program and Housing team to mobilize the action and support needed to ensure student safety and welfare.

Our COVID-19 Task Force met and communicated with students daily on fast-moving developments and evolving policies. The Research Program epidemiologist provided essential advice and guidance when much was unknown. Housing and maintenance staff became front line, essential workers, ensuring a clean, safe, and caring environment. A weekly food pantry at Hale Hālāwai stocked with community donations dispensed thousands of pounds of food. A critical shipment of masks arrived from alumni in China. Community members sewed

250 cloth masks. A new emergency student fund raised more than \$60,000 to help stranded and distressed students.

Our fall 2020 orientation, designed by EWC alumnus Alapaki Luke, centered on the Hawaiian concept of pilina (relationships). Even during those unprecedented times, we were not isolated by distance but connected through pilina with a new community and ‘ohana (family). With nearly 200 students and only one confirmed case of COVID-19 in 18 months, EWC staff and students demonstrated that commitment to community can make a difference.

We supported our first fully remote students who continued their studies from afar—in China, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and elsewhere. Virtual programming and celebrations, including orientation, graduation, and our weekly Exchange allowed us to build relationships and a sense of community despite physical distance.

The theme of the 2021 student orientation, which welcomed 130 students in September, is onipa‘a—a Hawaiian word meaning rooted but moving forward. It’s an apt description of EWC student programs.

↓  
**Our students were not only resilient in the face of adversity, they thrived.**



Lakpa Sherpa of Nepal received the Distinguished Service Award, then received EWC community support when the pandemic stranded her at EWC.



Unable to return home to Papua New Guinea, William Sirabis delayed graduation. With UH and EWC support he started a research internship in Hilo.

“Our participants see the Center as an important resource for their own and their countries’ development”



## Supporting Emerging Leaders

**A** RADIO DRAMA TRAINED 118 FILIPINO YOUTH LEADERS to disseminate information on disaster resilience to 40,000 people in all 92 *barangays* (districts) of Baybay City. In Mongolia, an online Comprehensive Leadership program reached young professionals in the capital and in all 21 provinces.

These are just two of many initiatives delivered in the past year through EWC support of participants who are leaders in their communities. [EWC Innovation Fellows](#) developed these programs—and 22 other outreach activities—while honing their own skills as content producers and advocates.

← Students leading the radio drama *Be Typhoon Resilient- ‘Kabangis sa Bagyo’* in Tagalog

Also since early 2020, nearly half of [53 EWC alumni chapters](#) tapped first-time funding from the Office of Alumni Engagement to support their communities and invigorate local alumni with both in-person and virtual programming. In Pakistan, the Karachi Chapter launched an investigative journalism fellowship for early-career journalists in Sindh Province, while the Islamabad Chapter featured young professional photographers in its photo contest “Visual Dialogue on Climate Change and Biodiversity.”

This continued investment in and strong ties to its alumni, including many more recent degree-student and professional development graduates, is a core Center strategy for building community, its alumni network, and effective leadership.

The Center grew its network by offering training opportunities for members of the public as well as alumni. The Leadership Program’s new [online professional certificates](#) include Change Leadership, Gender-Inclusive Leadership, Core Regional Issues and Trends, and Peace Leadership. A fifth certificate, Mis/Disinformation in the Media, is a joint project of the Media and Leadership teams as well as the Office of Alumni Engagement.

Demand for leadership development is strong in our region. The Center’s participants and its alumni (now 68,000 strong), see EWC as an important resource for their own and their countries’ development. Since January 2021, four new EWC alumni chapters were born in the region—three in the Pacific, the fourth in Bhutan.

# Increasing Our Engagement in the Pacific

Since its founding, the Center has maintained special interest and expertise in the Pacific Islands. Today, despite the pandemic, we have deepened engagement in the Pacific through high-level convenings, cultural celebrations, research, and professional development.



The [Pacific Islands Development Program \(PIDP\)](#) serves as the secretariat of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL) and is a member of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP). In 2021, the PICL convened virtually after a five-year hiatus, providing a forum for regional collaboration and engagement with the United States.

In addition to PIDP, programs across the Center are actively engaged in Pacific-focused projects.

In September 2021, EWC began work with an alliance on Promoting Just, Engaged, Civic-minded and Transparent (PROJECT) Governance in the Pacific, a \$20 million USAID-funded initiative to enhance good governance in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon

Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Sāmoa, and Vanuatu. Earlier in the year, we convened a gathering in Washington, DC, of major Pacific-focused agencies and actors and we are working with the Office of Insular Affairs (see “Engaging Key Stakeholders”). In 2020-2021 the Center published four of a planned six reports about how climate change is affecting the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands (see “Enhancing EWC Expertise”). And in spring 2020, we continued our long-term support of tourism development by pivoting an annual training focused on values-based, sustainable tourism to virtual mode for 32 professionals from nine countries.

To support strong and independent news media, we have implemented [five projects over the past two years](#) that tap networks of journalists, media alumni, and partner organizations. One provides media outlets in 11 countries licenses to reuse content from *The New York Times*—“a cost way above anything any independent Pacific Island media organization can afford,” according to Mary Lyn Fonua, managing editor of *Matangi Tonga*. Another effort, the Pacific Islands Media Sustainability Project in collaboration with the Internews Network and Splice Media, aims to increase the use of data-driven business models. And members of the Pacific Islands News Association received digital subscriptions and skills trainings that included remote press conferences with Hawai‘i Senator Brian Schatz and Congressman Ed Case.

↑ Left: His Excellency Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, at left, with Ambassador Wallace Chow, of the Republic of China (Taiwan), at right, at the end of the Pacific Islands Leadership Program alumni summit, supported by the ROC.





# Enhancing EWC Expertise and Research Impact

The Center has pursued innovative research projects, expanded the online reach of its traditional research programming, and is developing the next generation of EWC experts.

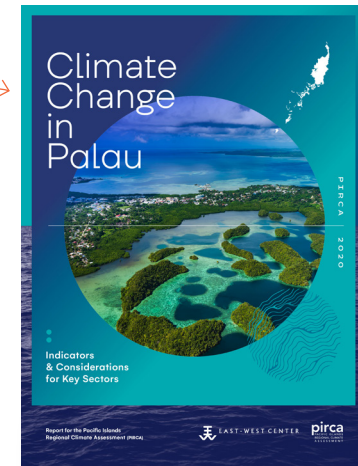
**I**N EARLY 2020, the Center’s convening of experts moved online. HIV/AIDS researchers from 21 Asian and Pacific countries met virtually to evaluate efforts to meet the 2020 UN global targets and contribute to the UN’s 2021-2026 Global AIDS Strategy. The tenth [North Pacific Arctic Conference](#), a collaboration with the Korea Maritime Institute, gathered online to analyze the immense challenges facing the Arctic region. A global meeting of the National Transfer Accounts project examined the economic impacts of demographic change, hosting 160 online participants from more than 50 countries. The Humane AI Initiative hosted an online futures symposium on artificial intelligence, privacy, and social

cohesion that involved 25 participants from 13 countries in Asia, Europe, and the United States.

Policy-relevant studies of climate change and its regional impacts are central to our research agenda. EWC published Pacific RISA’s [Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment \(PIRCA\) reports](#), with climate change risks and adaptation considerations for Palau, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Sāmoa. A team member provided expert testimony in the Full Committee Hearing of the US House Committee on Natural Resources.

Researchers partnered with the Center’s communications team on a State Department project that tells stories of human capital development projects in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. “Asia-Pacific Transitions” episodes featured the work of EWC experts on the EWC Insights online series. And EWC strengthened its partner network, joining [Hawai’i Green Growth](#) in the UN Local2030 Islands Hub, a unique model for sustainability.

The Center has invested in our future scholarship and impact by recruiting six new research fellows. Two Pacific specialists will focus on climate change and migration, one leading the [Pacific Drought Knowledge Exchange](#), producing useful information for land managers in Hawai’i and the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands. Complementing work on Southeast Asia already underway in a collaboration among EWC, the Henry Luce Foundation, and University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, three fellows will study Southeast Asia: hydropower in the Mekong; land conservation and armed conflict, particularly in Myanmar; and urban climate adaptation, focused on Jakarta. The sixth will examine food security and migration in India.



↑ The first of four volumes published in 2020–2021 by the Pacific RISA team.

**A climate team member provided expert testimony in the Full Committee Hearing of the US House Committee on Natural Resources.**

# Engaging Key Stakeholders in Washington, DC

As the United States deepens engagement with the Indo-Pacific region, East-West Center is closely supporting the US executive branch and Congress, Indo-Pacific embassies, and other partners in their efforts.

**T**HE CENTER'S CONGRESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ITS WASHINGTON OFFICE includes staff programs on Asia, support to members and caucuses via a range of briefings, and public events. A key tool for this engagement is the [Asia Matters for America](#) initiative.

Vice President Kamala Harris used the fifth edition of *ASEAN Matters for America*—produced in partnership with the US-ASEAN Business Council and ISEAS Singapore—during her Southeast Asia tour, and the report was also provided to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

The US Department of State, US embassies, and US consulates rely on EWC insight on the Indo-Pacific. These key stakeholders sponsored EWC in Washington (EWCW) visiting fellowships, a virtual education initiative connecting university students in South and Southeast Asia; factsheets for the 2020 US-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings; and an international conference on strengthening governance of transboundary rivers to support



← Enoch T. Ebong, Acting Director, US Trade and Development Agency (left), at the reception for ASEAN Matters.



the newly established, intergovernmental Mekong-US Partnership.

The Center drew on its decades of engagement in the Pacific Islands region when EWCW convened a special event on “The United States’ Enhanced & Enduring Commitment to the Pacific Islands Region,” with senior officials from USAID, Indo-Pacific Command, the Department of State, the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, and the ranking member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. Our Washington office has a new collaboration with the Office of Insular Affairs regarding the Pacific. EWCW also provided a platform for the US Government Accountability Office to discuss

their assessments of US-China higher education partnerships as well as the benefits and costs of the US military presence in Japan and South Korea.

Our partnerships with Indo-Pacific governments and embassies are important and reinforce engagement with US officials. For example, EWCW is cooperating with the Royal Thai Embassy on webinars, publications, and a task force on new opportunities for the US-Thai Alliance. Senator Tammy Duckworth announced at the inaugural webinar that the United States would send more COVID-19 vaccines to Thailand.

# Transforming Our Regional Impact through Cross-programmatic Projects



**C**ROSS-PROGRAMMATIC PROJECTS MOBILIZE RESOURCES to drive strategic and operational integration that will transform our regional impact. With these goals in mind, teams around the Center have pursued and won three new cross-programmatic grants totaling US\$6.3 million in 2020-21. We are stepping up our expertise, capacity-development, and public engagement in three critical policy areas: economic research on the Pacific, US human-capital development across the Indo-Pacific, and financial governance in the Pacific Islands.

## Growing Pacific Economists

Economists with expertise on the unique development challenges facing the Pacific Islands region are few and far between. To rectify this, the Asian Development Bank is providing US\$225,000 to fund a Development Research for Oceania Pipeline (DROP) project at the Center. In the initial pilot phase, three researchers focusing on priority economic-development issues in the Pacific Islands will conduct field research, complete an academic residency in Honolulu, and share their findings with key regional stakeholders through policy-relevant publications and outreach.

[DROP](#) is an Education-led collaboration with PIDP and CER.

## Highlighting US Human Capital Investment in Our Region

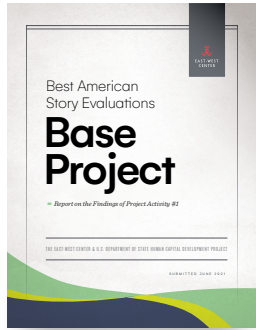
Every year, thousands of American companies, non-profits, government agencies, universities, and philanthropists invest hundreds of millions of dollars in educational, health, and innovation projects across the Indo-Pacific region. Yet unlike in China, these efforts are not largely coordinated in a top-down way and then publicized as a comprehensive national effort.

The US State Department contracted EWC to tell the story of “All of America”

“

Teams around the Center won three new cross-programmatic grants totaling US\$6.3 million in 2020-21”





contributions to human capital development in eight strategically critical Southeast Asian and Pacific Islands countries.

With \$1 million in funding, the Best American Story Evaluations (BASE) project has already collected and analyzed data and stories covering nearly 400 US-supported projects and their beneficial impacts. Next, we are designing strategic-messaging campaigns for US embassies to raise positive awareness of this

“All of America” picture through digital and broadcast engagement across the region.

[BASE](#) is a CER-led collaboration with Research.

### Supporting Financial Governance Across the Pacific Islands

Against a background of intensifying geostrategic rivalry, Pacific Island countries are contending with heightened foreign influence and dramatic increases in investment inflows. One of the most critical questions facing the region is whether these trends will exacerbate corruption and political instability or enhance peace and prosperity.

The Center is joining a coalition of regional organizations, the Blue Pacific Alliance, in a US\$20 million, USAID-funded project focused on strengthening democratic institutions and promoting good governance in the Pacific Islands region. As part of PROJECT Governance, EWC has been awarded US\$5 million to lead four mutually reinforcing programs of activities supporting financial-governance offices and officials across the Pacific.

We are:

- Enhancing Pacific governments’ capabilities to identify, investigate, and prosecute financial crimes through financial-governance training
- Expanding the independent media’s ability to inform the public on financial issues and hold governments and enforcement agencies accountable through financial media training
- Providing graduate fellowships to a core group of exceptional Pacific

governance leaders to pursue advanced degrees in management and finance

- Creating the Blue Pacific Governance Gateway, an online platform to support, synergize, and sustain the full array of PROJECT Governance initiatives across the Blue Pacific Alliance

[PROJECT Governance](#) is a CER-led collaboration with PIDP, PDP, and Education.



**The Center is joining a coalition of regional organizations, the Blue Pacific Alliance, focused on strengthening democratic institutions and promoting good governance”**

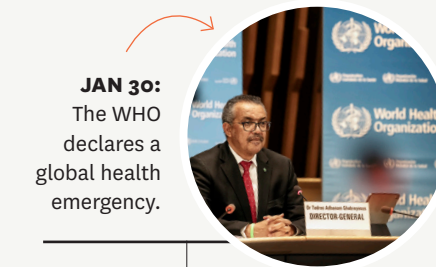


→ **Choggan Hagai Pawai**, former EWC graduate student, was unable to return home to Papua New Guinea with his new MS in Public Administration. Instead he joined the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) as a research intern, served as a rapporteur for the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL), briefed EWC leadership on cryptocurrency, and spoke in briefings with Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) President David Panuelo and EWC Board of Governors member Governor John Waihe’e.

SCROLL RIGHT ►

# Thriving through the Pandemic

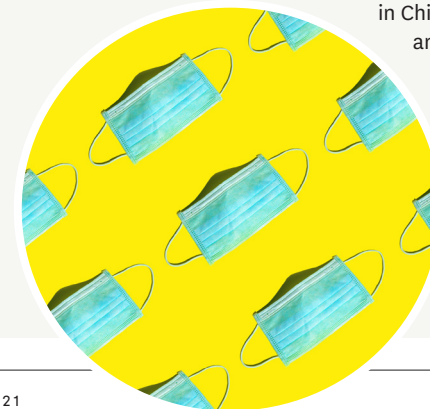
## A timeline of EWC milestones and highlights during COVID-19



**JAN 30:** The WHO declares a global health emergency.

**JAN 2020**

**FEB 13-15:** The International Graduate Student Conference takes place at EWC despite travel bans.



**APR 1-5:** A shipment of 10,000 masks from alumni in China arrives; distributed to front-line staff and students.

**APR 25:** Friends of EWC (FEWC) donates 250 masks sewn by community members.

**APR 30:** Student Emergency Fund established; more than \$60,000 will be raised.

**MAR 10:** Major US universities close.

**MAR 13:** EWC Housing announces it will remain open for students; Burns Hall closes to visitors.

**MAR 17:** The Education Program urges resident students to go home if possible. For others:

masks, social distancing, and handwashing.

**MAR 20-21:** Burmese and Indonesian students catch last flights to home countries.

**MAR 23:** All program-ming shifts to virtual; 260+ online productions over the next 18 months.

**MAR 25:** O'ahu under stay-at-home orders.

**MAY 13:** Leadership Program launches first online professional certificate in Change Leadership

**AUG 3-7:** The Center convenes UN-sponsored consortium addressing the generational economy with 160 participants from 50 countries.

**JUL 14:** Media alumna Maria Ressa (who will share the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize) gives virtual address on "Press Freedom Under Fire".



**JUL 15 to SEP 15:** The Center manages 2-week quarantine and first fully virtual Community Building Institute for American and International students.



**OCT 10:** The Center secures a \$1 million State Department grant for the Best American Stories Evaluation (BASE) Project.

**OCT 16-26:** The Center and the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) hold a global conference to celebrate 10 years of partnership on the annual North Pacific Arctic Conference.

**OCT 24:** EWC cosponsors Celebrate Micronesia Festival, virtually and on the grounds of Bishop Museum; thousands participate.

**OCT 27:** EWC climate team publishes the first of six Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment volumes.



**NOV 9:** The first and only COVID-19 case in EWC dormitories is followed by mass testing of dorm residents.

**NOV 19:** Washington office convenes leaders from across the US government to discuss the US' enduring commitment to the Pacific Islands.

Aung Zaw is the editor of *The Irrawaddy*, an online news outlet covering Myanmar that he founded from exile in Thailand in 1993. He returned to Myanmar in 2010, but is now back in Thailand.



**FEB 14-16:** First-ever International Graduate Student Conference attracts twice as many attendees from around the world as the previous year.

**FEB 23:** "After the Coup: What's Next for Myanmar" addresses aftermath of violence in widely viewed webinar.

**JAN:** Research Senior Fellow Tim Brown launches new versions of the Estimation and Projection Package (EPP) and AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM) software at virtual workshops with international partners.

**JAN 25:** Pacific Drought Knowledge Exchange cohosts its first climate change adaptation "Advanced Planning and Practice" training courses.

**MAR 1:** Launch of first cohort of EWC Ocean Research Corps to train 100 young researchers in 100 different communities across Southeast Asia for the Ocean Decade (2021-2030).

**MAR 4:** EWC Sustained Climate Assessment Specialist Zena Grecni testifies as an expert witness in the Full Committee Hearing of the US House Committee on Natural Resources.



PHOTO: IRWAN HERMAWAN

**MAR 5-7:** Asian Studies Development Program holds its 28th national conference with American educators, its first virtually.

**MAR 27:** First Pacific Island student returns to the Center following loosened restrictions in her home, Fiji, and an increase in flights.

**APR 7:** Office of Alumni Engagement announces chapter development funds to support community-based initiatives that recruit, retain, and engage alumni, attracting requests from 20 chapters.

**APR 17:** Global deaths from COVID-19 surpass 3 million.

**APR 20:** EWC Seminars Live online presents "Asian Americans Unsilenced" with prominent representatives from the arts, media, and government.

**MAY 15:** EWC launches 15 social innovation programs to support COVID-19 adaptation with local partners in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines.

**MAY 18:** The Center and Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub sign a cooperative agreement to provide EWC facilities and collaborate on sustainable development and climate change programming.

**MAY 25:** Inaugural virtual workshop of a new research and exchange program, "United States-Republic of Korea Cooperation in Southeast Asia: Trade, Investment, and Multilateralism".



**JUN 1:** EWC hosts the first virtual Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL).

**JUN 2:** Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change John Kerry holds a virtual conversation with Pacific Island leaders on Day 2 of the PICL.



**JUL 16:** 2021 EWC/EWCA International Conference: Bridge to 2022 attracts 385 alumni from around the world.

**JUL 19:** His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), visits the Center.

**JUL 28:** In India and Pakistan, participants in EWC cross-border media program distribute PPE equipment to journalists reporting on COVID-19.

**AUG. 11:** EWC welcomes 134 new degree students, the largest number in 10 years.

**AUG 11 and 22:** Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Congressman Ed Case (D-HI) participate in virtual press conferences with members of the Pacific Islands news media.

**AUG. 24-26:** Vice President Kamala Harris carries the 5th edition of ASEAN Matters for America on her tour of Southeast Asia.

**SEP 15:** The Center is awarded \$600,000 through 2024 from the US Embassy in Pakistan to identify and support women peacebuilders across Pakistan.

**SEP 16:** The Center is awarded \$4 million through 2024 from the US Department of State to train indigenous,

minority undergraduates from Southeast Asia working with 11 US embassies.

**SEP 27:** EWC and partners launch PROJECT Governance, a five-year, \$20 million initiative to strengthen democratic governance and civil society institutions in Pacific Islands.

**OCT. 1:** The Center announces a set of pandemic-related benchmarks that will trigger a 30-day count-down to reopening; staff begin voluntary return to the office.

WHO PHOTO: WHO/MAGNUM PHOTOS/PAOLO PELLEGRIN; MASKS AND MARIA RESSA PHOTO: GETTYIMAGES.COM

# Mahalo to Our Partners

Collaboration is central to everything the Center does. We thank our partners for their contributions and support.

- All China Journalists Association
- American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei
- Arts Focus Southeast Asia
- Asian Development Bank
- Avenir Health
- Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum
- Better Hong Kong Foundation
- Blue Startups
- Care International
- Can Tho University, Can Tho Vietnam
- Center for Economics and Demography of Aging, University of California, Berkeley
- Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Cities Today Institute
- City & County of Honolulu
- Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu
- Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Honolulu
- Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
- Doris Duke Theatre, Honolulu Museum of Art
- East West Center Alumni Association
- Facebook, Inc.
- Freeman Foundation
- Friends of East-West Center
- Giant Steps Music
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
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- Japanese Women's Leadership Initiative (JWLI) Ecosystem
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- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
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- Korea Maritime Institute
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- Michigan State University
- Monkey Waterfall

- NASA Land-Cover and Land-Use Change Program
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Transfer Accounts Project
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- Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center
- Pacific Islands Museum Association
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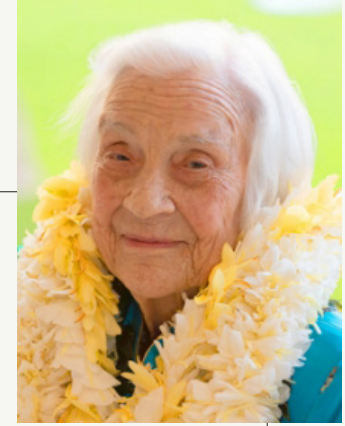
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IN MEMORY

In 2021, the Center lost a dear friend and supporter, Professor Barbara B. Smith. Prof. Smith passed away only weeks after the EWC Arts Program completed a year-long virtual events series in honor of her 100th birthday, concluding with a vibrant celebration of her 101st. In addition to her mentorship and teaching, Prof. Smith gave over \$4 million to East-West Center programs over the years. Mahalo nui loa, Barbara. Aloha 'oe.



↑  
 Smith at Film Australia as part of EWC's Pacific Island cultural training, 1973.

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# Financial Summary

**2019-2020**

<b>Assets</b> .....	\$56,473,170
<b>Liabilities</b> .....	\$4,527,154
<b>Net assets</b> .....	\$51,946,016
<b>Revenue and other support</b> .....	\$27,316,809
<b>Expenses</b> .....	\$25,599,383

**2020-21 UNAUDITED**

<b>Assets</b> .....	\$64,369,100
<b>Liabilities</b> .....	\$6,404,000
<b>Net assets</b> .....	\$57,965,100
<b>Revenue and other support</b> .....	\$33,811,500
<b>Expenses</b> .....	\$27,792,300

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