We were honored that President Obama and his family ushered in 2012 at the East-West Center on January 1, when they visited an exhibition on anthropological work his mother did in Indonesia as an EWC grantee in the 1970s. The President also visited the beautiful Japanese garden, where he told his children he had played as a youth.

During the year, the Center conducted an alumni conference in Beijing and an international media conference in Seoul; launched a new Brunei-U.S. initiative for English language training in ASEAN; led election-monitoring teams in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea; published significant reports on the Trans-Pacific Partnership and climate change in the Pacific, joined then Secretary Hillary Clinton at a meeting for Pacific Island women leaders in Rarotonga, and helped host the Dalai Lama for a special discussion with Native Hawaiian leaders.

The Center also mourned the loss of former EWC President Everett Kleinjans and Senator Daniel K. Inouye, a tireless champion in Congress for the Center, public diplomacy and the Asia Pacific region.

In 2013, we will continue a vigorous schedule of activities even as the Center repositions its programs. We will launch new leadership programs for the Pacific islands, Malaysia and Burma, maintain a busy roster of journalist and teacher exchanges, and issue a new report on how India and the U.S. matter to each other, among many other activities focused on helping people from the Asia Pacific region and the United States better understand each other, the issues they face in common and how they can be addressed.

The Board of Governors and the staff of the East-West Center are committed to the Center’s future and its important mission. Our deepest thanks to all of you who are part of our journey. Mahalo.
The East-West Center and the East-West Center Alumni Association hosted an international conference of scholars, officials, educators, and business leaders in Beijing, September 1-3. Some 300 participants from 25 areas spanning Asia, the Pacific, and the U.S. gathered at Peking University to address issues ranging from education, economics, health, and the environment to international relations, including collaborative efforts to develop common solutions.

Panelists at the EWC/EWCA International Conference addressed issues facing the region including China’s role and the changing role of women.

2012 EWC International Conference Highlights

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U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke spoke of ways the U.S. and China are working together “to expand our cooperation and address global challenges,” in his keynote address.

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