



RESEARCH PROGRAM

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EAST-WEST
CENTER

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. Established by the United States Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

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The East-West Center Research Program conducts collaborative study and policy analysis on critical issues of broad concern in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The goal is to provide more complete knowledge and a deeper understanding of the environments, societies, economies, politics, and governance of this dynamic part of the world.

Researchers work in close collaboration with individuals and institutions throughout the region and share their findings with planners, policymakers, regional specialists, and the public through consultations, publications, conference participation, and engagement with the media. The Research Program also provides information and analysis in support of the Center's Honolulu-based Education and Seminars Programs and its Washington, DC office.

Current Research Projects

A **collaborative study on rice farming in mainland Southeast Asia** addresses the serious social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by today's farmers in one of the world's prime rice-growing regions. A key question is how have increasingly elderly farmers maintained, or even increased, production as young people leave the rural areas to join the global economy.

The **Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (Pacific RISA) program** helps communities in Hawai'i and the US-affiliated Pacific Islands anticipate and adapt to a changing climate. The RISA team were lead authors of the Pacific Islands chapter in the fourth US National Climate Assessment, mandated by Congress. A new initiative, focusing on the Republic of the Marshall Islands, informs health professionals, policymakers, and community organizations about the climate-related health risks faced by migrants. A member of

the Pacific RISA team also serves on the City and County of Honolulu Climate Change Commission.

Nepal offers a good opportunity to study the **interaction between rural communities and natural resources** in the face of an increasingly globalized economy. Over the past 25 years, the area under forests has doubled in Nepal, much of it managed under the government's acclaimed Community Forestry Program. A collaborative study led by the East-West Center has quantified the rate, extent, and socioeconomic significance of changes in Nepal's forest cover based on three decades of Landsat satellite data and spatial modeling.

Urban air pollution is a critical environmental issue in many parts of Asia. The East-West Center is working with colleagues in Vietnam and India to develop innovative approaches for monitoring air-pollution exposure using

citizen science. The objective is to improve the use of technology to collect accurate information on air quality in Asia's rapidly growing urban areas.

The goal of the **National Transfer Accounts (NTA) project** is to improve understanding of how population growth and changing age structure influence economic growth, gender and generational equity, public finances, and other important features of the macro-economy. Research teams in more than 70 countries are constructing accounts that measure how people at each age produce, consume, and share resources and save for the future. These accounts complement the UN System of National Accounts, population data, and other economic and demographic indicators. The East-West Center serves as the global center of the NTA network as well as the regional center for Asia.

As of 2017, UNAIDS estimated that 5.2 million people in Asia were living with HIV. Yet financial support for prevention and treatment programs is stagnant or even declining. Center researchers work with national partners throughout Asia and with colleagues from regional and international agencies to develop **models that will improve understanding of HIV epidemics** across the region. The goal is to help policymakers analyze their local epidemics and design appropriate prevention and treatment strategies that will achieve the maximum impact with limited resources.

Many changes in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region have created **uncertainty in the international security environment**. These include altered geopolitical balances, the growth of nationalism and "tribalism" in some countries, maritime territorial disputes, concerns about cross-border terrorism, and even economic competition. The East-West Center addresses issues related to the rise of China and its regional and global implications, the US alliance system, and the future of the Korean peninsula and Taiwan. The goal is to strengthen adherence to a rules-based order, build regional cooperation, and avoid devastating conflicts.

The East-West Center hosts an annual **North Pacific Arctic Conference** that brings together specialists from the public and private sectors and civil society to discuss a region where the world's most dramatic climate changes are affecting global trade routes and resource development. The project produces an annual volume addressing longer-term issues related to Arctic societies, governance, resource use, and environmental change.

Links to longer descriptions of these and other research projects are available on the East-West Center website at www.eastwestcenter.org/research/featured-research-projects.

Outreach

East-West Center scholars regularly publish the results of their work in academic journals, peer-reviewed books, and reports by government agencies and international organizations. Center researchers also contribute to media coverage of important developments in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The **East-West Wire**, a long-standing media service provided by the East-West Center, has increased coverage of findings and commentary from East-West Center researchers, visitors, and colleagues. Recent titles include:

- *Silicon Valley's China paradox*
- *How should the US react to China's political and economic transformation?*
- *Is there a future for economic integration in East and Southeast Asia?*

All are available on the East-West Center website at www.eastwestcenter.org/research/research-the-east-west-wire.

The **Noon Seminar Series** disseminates research and policy findings on contemporary issues in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Noon Seminars invite scholars, advocates, and government officials from throughout the US, Asia, and the Pacific to share their findings with colleagues and students through a series of presentations in Honolulu and also to a wider audience through the Center's website at www.eastwestcenter.org/research/research-noon-seminar-series.

Featured Publications

America's deep rationale for PACOM, by Denny Roy (2018). In T. Motohiro, editor, *US Pacific Command and Asia: Security in the Indo-Pacific*. Tokyo: Chikura Publishing Company.

Broad threat to humanity from cumulative climate hazards intensified by greenhouse gas emissions, by Camilo Mora et al. (2018). *Nature Climate Change*. Review Article. 19 November 2018. DOI: 10.1038/s41558-018-0315-6.

Economic stagnation in Japan: Exploring the causes and remedies of Japanization, edited by Dongchul Cho, Takatoshi Ito, and Andrew Mason (2018). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

Getting to good human trafficking data: Everyday guidelines for frontline practitioners in Southeast Asia, by Jessie Brunner (2018). Stanford, CA: WS Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice; Honolulu, HI: East-West Center; West Java, Indonesia: Human Rights Resource Centre.

Hawai'i and US-affiliated Pacific Islands, by Victoria W. Keener et al. (2018). In *Fourth National Climate Assessment*. Washington, DC: US Global Change Research Program.

Intergenerational transfers and the older population, by Andrew Mason and Ronald Lee (2018). In National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, *Future directions for the demography of aging*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, pp.187-214.

Is 5G wireless technology the next field for Chinese dominance?, by Eric Harwit (2018). *China-US Focus*. 4 April 2018.

Megaregionalism 2.0: Trade and innovation within global networks, edited by Dieter Ernst and Michael G. Plummer (2018). Singapore: World Scientific.

Rubber out of the ashes: Locating Chinese agribusiness investments in "armed sovereignties" in the Myanmar-Chinese borderlands, by Kevin Woods (2018). *Territory, Politics, Governance*. DOI: 10.1080/21622671.2018.1460276.

The Arctic in world affairs: A North Pacific dialogue on building capacity for a sustainable Arctic in a changing global order, edited by Robert W. Corell et al. (2017). Busan, Korea: Korea Maritime Institute; and Honolulu, HI: East-West Center.

The expansion of tree-based boom crops in mainland Southeast Asia: 2001 to 2014, by Kaspar Hurni and Jefferson Fox (2018). *Journal of Land Use Science*. 13(1-2): 198-219.