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# ASIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA



The Asia Matters for America (AMA) initiative maps the trade, investment, employment, business, diplomacy, security, and people–to–people connections between the United States and the Indo–Pacific at the national, state, and local levels. The publications, one–page connection summaries for states and congressional districts, and the website are resources for understanding the robust and dynamic US—Indo–Pacific relationship.



The Pacific Islands Matter for America



Asia Matters for America



Rep. Ed Case addresses the audience at the the Pacific Islands Matter for America Launch on Capitol Hill



EWC President Suzanne Vares-Lum at the Pacific Islands Matter for America Launch on Capitol Hill



The Asia Pacific Bulletin (APB) is produced by the East–West Center in Washington. APB analyses focus on policy–relevant Asia Pacific developments and US–Asia relations and are 1000 words in length. APBs are designed to provide insights, information, and perspective for the busy professional or policymaker. APB considers any article that provides cogent, timely, and rigorous analysis of contemporary issues in the Asia Pacific region and encourages contributors to write on subjects that impact both US and Asian policy. The publication welcomes a diversity of opinion and is particularly keen to publish voices from the Asia Pacific region.

#### Recent Asia Pacific Bulletin

### US Trade Policy Options for Pacific Islands States Require Washington's Political Commitment





The Pacific Islands have emerged as a zone of contestation in the ongoing rivalry between China and the United States. While the US has long been the dominant military power in the region, China is raising its profile through activities like port visits, military exercises, and establishing diplomatic and security ties with regional states like Kiribati and the Solomon Islands. In 2018, Chinese leader Xi Jinping visited Papua New Guinea for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. President Biden was supposed to visit PNG in May 2023, in the first ever visit of a sitting US president to the Pacific Islands, but that trip was scuttled due to the debt ceiling fiasco in Washington.

## **Recent Special Publications**

US Indo-Pacific Strategy after One Year: Perspectives from Allies, Partners, and across the Indo-Pacific





During 2023, the East–West Center, with support from the US Department of State, held a series of three closed–door conferences in Washington, DC; Honolulu; and Jakarta, at which US allies, partners, friends, and American experts and government officials provided their perspectives on US policy and implementation with respect to US Indo–Pacific Strategy. This report is based on insights shared at all three conferences and presents supplementary materials that provide further insights into how stakeholders perceive and assess Indo–Pacific Strategy.

### **Programs**





# Congressional Staff Program on the Pacific

This bipartisan educational certificate program equips congressional staffers with the information and analyses necessary to appreciate the Congressional Staff Program on the Pacific significance of the Pacific Islands and the US role in the region. By focusing on crucial forward-looking issues, CSPP is designed to provide staffers with a more comprehensive understanding of the region and its significance to US Indo-Pacific policy.







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# **US-ROK-Japan Trilateral Global Leadership Youth Summit**





The US-ROK-Japan Trilateral Global Leadership Youth Summit is a leadership initiative implemented by the EWC, with funding and support from the US Embassy Seoul, and Tokyo, as well as the Republic of Korea Ministry of Education. The program is for emerging leaders from the

United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan, with additional representatives from Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. This year's 3-day summit was held in Busan, Korea and addressed issues such as climate change, economic innovation, and national security concerns through simulations of Camp David and a competitive pitch competition.

#### **Participant Composition**

United States

Southeast Asia

Pacific Islands

# **Seminars and Webinars**

# Forging Stronger Connections: Leveraging Military Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange in the Indo-Pacific





Lt. Col. Matthew House (Adjunct Fellow, EWCW), Dr. Roger Kangas, Nicholas Hamisevicz, PhD (EWCW), and Andre Rivier

Military diplomacy is not merely a tool of defense but a cornerstone of proactive engagement and strategic influence. By investing in its capabilities and empowering its practitioners, the United States can navigate the complexities of the Asia Pacific region effectively, fostering stability and prosperity for future generations.

# The Future of the Pacific Regional Order



Anna Powles, John Nillson-Wright, David Peebles, Yvonne Te Ruki Rangi o Tangaroa Underhill-Sem

For this online event, our panelists will present on the topic of 'The Future of the Pacific Regional Order'. With rising geopolitical competition, the deteriorating climate crisis, and ever-pressing development needs, the question of how Pacific Islands states should cooperate

internally and with external partners is of paramount importance.



#### R.I.C.E.

#### RESEARCH **INNOVATION &** COLLABORATION EXCHANGE (R.I.C.E.)



R.I.C.E. Recipient

Samatha Kies-Ryan Director, Earth Water People Awarded \$9,000 to explore water concerns and water security in the

The East-West Center (EWC) welcomes scholars, policy experts, non-government organization / civil society organization (NGO/CSO) members, researchers, or journalists from the Indo-Pacific region, including the United States, to undertake research or other projects on topics related to the domestic/international governance, environmental issues, political economy issues around trade, technology and integration, and geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific.



## Young Professionals Program

The Young Professionals Program is a leadership development experience for emerging leaders in US-Indo-Pacific affairs. held at the East-West Center in Washington's DC office. Young Professionals Program participants have opportunities to write articles for the Asia Matters for America website, conduct research, and take part in unique professional development opportunities. Participants join a unique and diverse network of alumni, with an interest in US-Indo-Pacific relations.





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 US 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. The East–West Center in Washington, a program of the East–West Center, advances US-Indo-Pacific relations by creating innovative content, publications, exchanges, and outreach activities.