

# Family Album

Photo contest paints rich portrait of EAP region // By Brittney McClary

Black-and-white photographs of playing children, solemn monks, bustling streets and breathtaking landscapes adorn the walls of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs' front office, the result of a recent photo contest. The photos were taken by U.S. government employees, Locally Employed Staff members and family members from throughout the EAP region.

Earlier this year, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell invited staff members in the EAP region to submit their favorite black-and-white photographs from countries they had lived in or visited in the region. More than 500 striking images poured in, and the contest judges—Campbell, plus several EAP deputy assistant secretaries and office directors—chose 80 images from 40 photographers to be printed, framed and displayed. All 500 submissions, broken down by country of origin, can be seen in a slideshow at <http://eap.state.gov/Mainslideshow.cfm>.

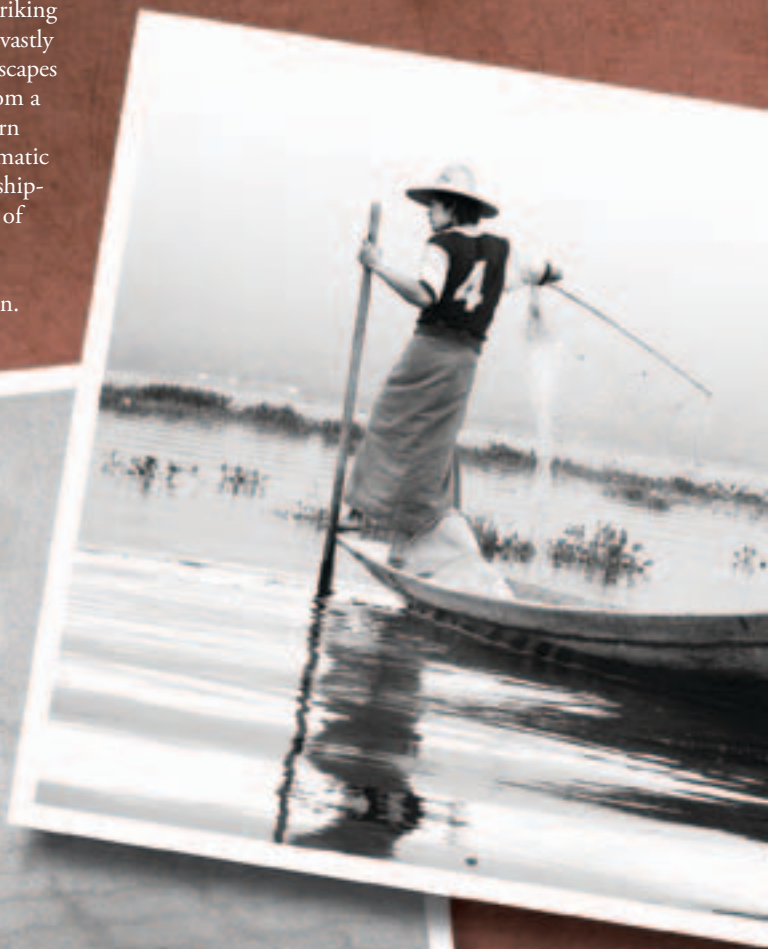
## 'Rich Understanding'

"These photos represent the intimate and rich understanding that members of our community have of the diverse people and cultures of the Asian-Pacific region," Campbell said. "This collection is the perfect visual celebration of EAP's 100th anniversary and of the ongoing relationship we have with this vibrant region."

The photos reveal the authenticity of the people, the striking cultural diversity and the vastly differing photogenic landscapes of the region. Ranging from a print of a crisp and modern Shanghai skyline to a dramatic scene of hundreds of worshipers thronging the streets of Manila, the photos evoke the sounds, feelings and excitement of EAP's region.

One couple, Martin and Sherry Bushue, had eight photos selected. Their images of Burma, China and Indonesia capture moods of solitude, weariness and warmth.

Martin, an electrical engineer, and Sherry, who works for the U.S. Consulate in Surabaya, recently served in Cambodia and Burma. After six years in the region, Sherry said she found it easier to be accepted as a photographer in many cultural





situations because of her gender, enabling her to capture the hidden scenes of everyday life. Their photography in Cambodia led them to establish a nonprofit organization that supports schooling for 20 street children.

"Photographing people is an entry into other cultures, where we can see that we are all pretty much the same," said Martin. "A good portrait with a nice smile is a very satisfying experience."

### Great Wall

Another winner, Jamison Fouss, provided several photos of a gentle, traditional side of China, including one of bright cherry blossoms in front of the Great Wall. His forays off the beaten path in China allow him to photograph the countryside. The nonimmigrant visa chief at the U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou, Fouss is well acquainted with EAP countries, having

served as a Foreign Service officer in Taipei, Taiwan and Beijing and worked for the Peace Corps in American Samoa and the Marshall Islands.

"To encourage the villagers to let me photograph them," he said, "I always made it a point to give them a copy of the photo I had taken previously. I especially liked it when they invited me into their homes or place of work so I could capture how they lived."

For Susan and Janelle Jorgensen, photography is a family affair. The mother-daughter duo presented photos of urban scenes of Seoul, Korea, that highlighted the city's mix of old and new. One depicts a small outdoor market stall laden with western-style women's dress shoes. Susan and Janelle are the wife and daughter, respectively, of Consular Officer Mark Jorgensen, who serves at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul.

Another winner, Tho D. Le, produced what Campbell said was one of his favorite photographic scenes in the contest: five photos showing the path of a lone woman's bicycle ride home at dusk in the Vietnamese countryside. Tho, who grew up in Vietnam, also offered an eye-catching scene of an unusually calm Hanoi intersection of three famous streets. Tho is a distribution clerk for the Information Resource Center at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi.

"I'm very proud of these photos," Tho said. "This is a good chance for me to introduce my 'small and peaceful Vietnam' to friends."

This photo collection not only captures some of East Asia's most evocative images but also reveals the hidden photographic talents of the EAP community. ■

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*The author is an EAP public diplomacy officer.*

