The East-West Center in Washington invites you to an Asia Pacific Democracy and Human Rights Seminar and book launch:

**Civil Society in China through the Ages: What Impact Does the Past Have on Developments Today?**

Featuring:

**Professor Karla W. Simon**  
Professor of Law, Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America

**Dr. Susan R. Weld** *(Discussant)*  
Executive Director, Law Asia Leadership, Georgetown University Law

In accord with the slogan “small government-big society,” China’s government today seeks to downsize the role of the state sector in civil society. In what ways have social and economic developments affected the laws that will make it easier to establish non-governmental organizations, to which the provision of many social services are expected to be outsourced? In turn, how has the law shaped the same social and economic forces in China? This is a snapshot of the material covered in, **Professor Karla W. Simon’s** new book: “Civil Society in China,” (Oxford University Press, 2013), which traces the historical development of civil society over China’s 5000 year history, with particular emphasis on what is happening today. Subtitled “The Legal Framework from Ancient Times to the ‘New Reform Era,’” the fascinating changes chronicled by the book tie historical analogies into today’s legal and social environment. This presentation is not designed for China scholars alone, but for a broader public with an interest in the growing nation and some of its little-known social developments already underway.

**Copies of the book will be available for sale at the event**

**Wednesday, April 24**  
2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**East-West Center in Washington**  
1819 L Street, NW, Washington, DC, Sixth Floor Conference Room  
This event is free and open to the public.

To RSVP, please click here: [www.eastwestcenter.org/iaA](http://www.eastwestcenter.org/iaA)  
Kindly send your reply by April 23.

**Karla W. Simon** (J.D. Duke, LL/M.NYU) is Research Professor of Law at Catholic University and an Affiliated Scholar of NYU’s US-Asia Law Institute. Her comparative research on the laws affecting non-profit organizations developed through NPOs she and her husband, Leon Irish, co-founded, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), and the International Center for Civil Society Law (ICCSL). Professor Simon earned her J.D. from Duke University, and LL/M from New York University.

**Dr. Susan R. Weld** is Executive Director of Georgetown Law Asia. She was General Counsel of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China from 2002 to 2005. Dr. Weld has practiced law in New York and Boston and taught at Harvard, Northeastern University, Boston College, and Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC. She earned her J.D. from Harvard Law School and a PhD from Harvard’s Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations.