



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2008

CONTACT:
Phuong Quach, 415 273 2760 ext 11

**PEGGY SAIKA, AAPIP PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TO RECEIVE 2008 LEADERSHIP, EQUITY AND DIVERSITY AWARD**

San Francisco, CA – Peggy Saika, President/Executive Director of Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) will receive the 2008 Leadership, Equity And Diversity (LEAD) Award from Women & Philanthropy, a project of the Council on Foundations, at a Capitol Hill May 6 ceremony in Washington DC that is scheduled to include House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The LEAD Award recognizes innovators in the philanthropic community who have increased resources for programs that promote gender equity and diversity. Ms. Saika joins a distinguished list of twelve previous recipients of the LEAD Award, which is endowed by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

“We are absolutely thrilled that Peggy has been selected as this year’s LEAD Award recipient,” shared Rini Banerjee, Chair of the AAPIP Board of Directors, and Program Director of The Overbrook Foundation. “Her commitment to the Asian American/Pacific Islander community, and to the ongoing pursuit of equity and justice for all persons, especially women of all colors, is unparalleled. This recognition is both well-deserved and long overdue.”

Peggy joined AAPIP as President/Executive Director in 2002. Under her stewardship, AAPIP has grown into one of the leading affinity institutions in the field of philanthropy. In addition to being a voice for AAPIs in the national philanthropic field, AAPIP has expanded its capacity by developing key strategic directions, including philanthropic advocacy and building community philanthropy.

For more than thirty years, Peggy has led AAPI communities across the country from New York to San Francisco. She has been at the forefront of founding and sharing in the leadership of several key AAPI organizations, including the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, Asian and Pacific Islanders for Choice, the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, the Asian Law Caucus and the Asian Women’s Shelter.

In addition to her leadership of AAPIP, Peggy continues to play key leadership roles throughout the field of philanthropy. She was one of the first Asian Americans to serve as a trustee of the Council on Foundations. She is currently the Chair of the Board of The California Wellness Foundation and a trustee of the Mertz Gilmore Foundation. She was a former Chair of the Board of the New World Foundation, a trustee of the Ms Foundation for Women and a W.K. Kellogg Foundation International Fellow.

For more information about the LEAD Award, AAPIP, the award ceremony or to arrange an interview with Peggy, please contact Phuong Quach, 415 273 2760 ext 11.

###