



THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION
Promoting Understanding and Cooperation in U.S.-Asia Relations since 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2010

CONTACT:
Margo Grimm Eule, Director of Communications
(202) 347-1994

FIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AWARDED MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIPS

(Washington, D.C.) The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation today announced the sixteenth group of U.S. federal government officials to have been awarded Mike Mansfield Fellowships. The Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program, the first of its kind for the United States and Japan, is a two-year, government-to-government exchange established by Congress in 1994 to build a corps of U.S. government officials with substantial Japan expertise. The program provides a select group of federal employees an opportunity to gain proficiency in the Japanese language and practical experience working in the Japanese government. The Japanese language skills, government experience and contacts Mansfield Fellows acquire during the program make them a unique and valuable resource to their agencies when they return to U.S. federal government service.

This year the following five U.S. government officials were selected by a bi-national committee:

Amanda J. Eichelkraut, Program Analyst, U.S. Agency for International Development

Monterey R. Gardiner, Physical Scientist, Technology Development Manager, U.S. Department of Energy

Melissa Muhammad, Competent Authority/Tax Treaty Analyst, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of Treasury

Andrew L. Winternitz, Deputy Director for Japan Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense

Tad Woolfe, Deputy Chief, Wing Current Operations, United States Air Force

The two-year Mansfield Fellowship Program allows Fellows to develop an in-depth understanding of Japan and its government through a year of practical work inside Japanese

government ministries and agencies, preceded by a year of intensive, full-time Japanese language and area studies in the United States. The Fellowships are administered by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation through an annual congressional appropriation, with the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as grantor.

“As the United States and Japan celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their alliance, we recognize that the promise the partnership holds for the future depends in part on U.S. government officials with an in-depth understanding of Japan and its government,” said Gordon Flake, executive director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. “The Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program has been addressing this need for sixteen years, and the latest group of Fellows is exceptionally well prepared to help the U.S. and Japan meet the challenges and opportunities ahead. The sixteenth group of Fellows is committed to increasing their Japan expertise and to building on their experience to help the U.S. and Japan cooperate on critical issues including foreign assistance, bilateral tax agreements, renewable energy technologies, missile defense, and joint basing and training opportunities. The knowledge and networks they gain during their Fellowships will prepare them to contribute to a more open and inclusive U.S.-Japan alliance and to greater understanding and cooperation between our countries.”

Since the Fellowships were established, 96 Fellows, representing 22 agencies and departments of the U.S. government, have entered the program.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation is a 501(C)3 organization that advances Mike Mansfield’s lifelong work to promote understanding and cooperation among the nations and peoples of Asia and the United States. The Foundation’s exchanges, policy dialogues, research and education facilitate dialogue among Asians and Americans, explore the underlying issues that influence policies, create networks among Asian and American leaders, and increase public awareness about Asia. The Foundation has offices in Washington, D.C., Tokyo, Japan, and Missoula, Montana.

###