



THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

Promoting Understanding and Cooperation in U.S.-Asia Relations since 1983

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**MANSFIELD FOUNDATION PUBLISHES “RE-EXAMINING THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP IN AN ERA OF CHANGE”**

WASHINGTON, D.C. The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation is pleased to announce the publication of *Re-examining the Importance of the U.S.-Japan Relationship in an Era of Change*. This publication, which is now available on the Foundation’s website (www.mansfieldfdn.org), summarizes discussions held as part of a two-day program to reassess the U.S.-Japan relationship in light of domestic political changes, regional tensions and other developments. Program participants included members of two Mansfield Foundation programs – the Mike Mansfield Fellowships and the U.S.-Japan Network for the Future – as well as Japanese discussants from academic institutions, government agencies and think tanks in the U.S. and Japan. Ambassador Rust Deming, adjunct professor for the Japan Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University and now the head of the Office of Japan Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, led both days of the program, which included a closed-door working session at the Foundation’s Washington, D.C., office February 28, 2011 and a public event on Capitol Hill March 1. During the two-day event, the nine East Asia specialists and Ambassador Deming discussed regional security issues, the aftermath of the global financial crisis, and new factors affecting climate change and energy policies in the U.S. and Japan. In addition to Ambassador Deming, program participants included:

Kiyoaki Aburaki, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)

Kuniko Ashizawa, Oxford Brooks University

Toshi Arimura, Sophia University

L. William Heinrich, U.S. Department of State and Mansfield Fellow 2005-2007

Llewelyn Hughes, George Washington University and U.S.-Japan Network for the Future Fellow

Keith A. Krulak, U.S. Department of State and Mansfield Fellow 2001-2003

Jennifer Sklarew, George Mason University and Mansfield Fellow 2003-2005

Mireya Solis, American University and U.S.-Japan Network for the Future Fellow

Nicholas Szechenyi, Center for Strategic and International Studies and U.S.-Japan Network for the Future Fellow

During the two-day program, participants examined challenges facing the U.S.-Japan alliance, including leadership changes and fiscal uncertainties. They also offered insights into opportunities related to economic recovery and integration and climate change and energy policy. This publication presents an overview of those discussions as well as follow-up discussions in which participants were asked to assess the implications of the Great East Japan Earthquake for the relationship.

“After more than fifty years, the U.S.-Japan alliance faces new challenges. This program provided a unique opportunity for a new generation of Japan and East Asia specialists to exchange views on those challenges with each other and with Ambassador Deming, who has spent much of his distinguished career dealing with Japanese affairs,” said Mansfield Foundation Executive Director L. Gordon Flake. “As this publication notes, by re-examining the alliance in light of contemporary challenges, these experts identified not only the tasks that lie ahead for the U.S. and Japan, but also the opportunities. These discussions underscored the importance of continued U.S.-Japan cooperation and confirmed that the relationship is more relevant than ever.”

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.