



## THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

*Celebrating 25 Years of Promoting Understanding and Cooperation in U.S.-Asia Relations*

### **Mansfield Foundation Board of Directors Meets Japanese Prime Minister Aso, Korean Prime Minister Han Seung Soo, and Key Political and Business Leaders in Japan and Korea April 13-14, 2009**

Members of the Mansfield Foundation Board of Directors took advantage of being in Tokyo for their annual meeting April 13 by participating in a series of meetings with political and business leaders in Tokyo and later in Seoul. In meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso and Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone, Board members said they were very pleased the Obama Administration had moved quickly to signal the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance. In these and other Tokyo meetings, Board members shared their thoughts on the ongoing importance of the bilateral relationship and exchanged views on key issues affecting the U.S. and Japan, including the global financial crisis, nuclear nonproliferation, and climate change. Board members also met with Ichiro Ozawa, then President of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), and a bipartisan group of younger members of Japan's Diet.

Board members also contributed to the April 15 Mansfield Foundation 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference April by participating as panelists and moderators.



Board member William T. Breer and Mansfield Foundation Executive Director L. Gordon Flake participate in the panel on “The U.S.-Japan Alliance in a Changing East Asia” at Mansfield Foundation 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, April 2009

Board member Mary D. Byron moderates the panel on “Asian Economic Integration and its Implications for U.S.-Japan Relations,” Mansfield Foundation 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, April 2009



Several Board members traveled on to Seoul, Korea, for meetings with Korean leaders and U.S. government and business representatives April 16 and 17. They met Prime Minister Han Seung Soo and attended a National Assembly breakfast meeting hosted by Park Jin, the Chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee. Board members also met with Han Sung-Joo, Korea's former Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the United States and Minister of Unification Hyun In-taek. They met members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea as well as members of the Mansfield Committee on U.S.-ROK Relations, a group established in 2007 to forge stronger political relationships among the current and rising generation of leaders in Washington and Seoul. Board members met U.S. Ambassador to Korea Kathleen Stephens and held a roundtable discussion with a group of senior economic officials and scholars. Their round of Seoul meetings concluded with appointments with Kim Sung-hwan, Senior Secretary for Foreign Affairs and National Security and Sakong Il, Senior Economic Advisor to the President.