



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

U.S.-Asia Relations: A Renewed Imperative **September 8, 2004**

More than 60 corporate representatives, diplomats and members of Congress attended this policy luncheon organized by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation and co-hosted by Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Conrad Burns (R-MT), and Congressman Dennis Rehberg (D-MT). Congressional hosts were joined by Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI); U.S. Representatives Adam Smith (D-WA) and Ben Chandler (D-KY); Japan's Ambassador to the United States Ryozyo Kato; and South Korea's Ambassador to the United States Sung-joo Han.

Following welcoming remarks by Senators Burns and Baucus, the Foundation's executive director, **L. Gordon Flake** introduced **Robert M. Kimmitt**, executive vice president for global public policy, Time Warner, Inc., and a member of the Mansfield Foundation board of directors.

Kimmitt spoke about the Foundation's strong ties with Asia, especially Japan. He highlighted the Foundation's well established relationship with the U.S. Congress through the Mansfield Fellowship Program, which now has a ten-year record of building Japan expertise in the U.S. government. Kimmitt also noted the benefits of the Foundation's Mansfield Congressional Study Tour in Asia, which has given six U.S. Senators the opportunity to travel to Asia. "One of the Foundation's most important activities is getting members of Congress to visit Asia, not simply for quick visits but for travel that is tailored to their legislative and policy interests," he said.

As a vice president at Time Warner, Kimmitt said he has a new appreciation for the Foundation's work exploring in a non-partisan way several key issues of importance to corporations, including intellectual property rights, rule of law in China and bilateral tax treaties. He highlighted the Foundation's programs that bring together experts to discuss these issues, including the Foundation's new Corporate Affiliates Program.

Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, honorary chairman of the board, Toyota Motor Corporation, spoke briefly, recalling Mike Mansfield's contribution to a strong U.S.-Japan relationship and reaffirming his commitment to "make whatever contribution I can to U.S.-Japan relations."

In his remarks, **Evans Revere**, acting assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, provided an overview of the status of U.S.-Asia relations today. He characterized Mike Mansfield as "a role model for all who aspire to greater relations between the United States and Asia," and congratulated the Mansfield Foundation for all it has done over the years to further U.S.-Asia relations. In recognizing the luncheon attendance of Ambassador Ryozyo Kato of Japan and Ambassador Sung-joo Han of Korea, Revere noted their nations' efforts to advance U.S.-Asia relations.

"The U.S.-Asia relationship is a 'good news story' – broad, complex and deep," Revere said. "Asia is riding the crest of a wave of trends that are favorable to the United States." He outlined four trends:

- Success of democracy building in Asia
- A rise in prosperity, with income levels rising rapidly
- A region largely at peace
- The rejection of radical Islam in the region

Revere then outlined critical priorities for the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. These included:

- Combating terrorism
- Promoting regional stability
- Increasing cooperative activities with Asia on issues such as infectious diseases, environmental protection and human rights
- Promoting and maintaining open markets in the region
- Protecting Intellectual Property Rights and fighting corruption
- Developing strategic partnerships with Asia, including the Republic of Korea, Japan, Philippines and Thailand. With China now the world's fastest growing economy, he highlighted commitments to the WTO, APEC and ASEAN as priorities as well.

"The United States is an Asia-Pacific country," Revere concluded. "The future of the world will depend on developments in Asia."