



THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

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

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FIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AWARDED MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIPS AS PROGRAM CELEBRATES ITS FIFTEENTH YEAR

(Washington, D.C.) The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation today announced the fifteenth group of U.S. federal government officials to have been awarded Mike Mansfield Fellowships. The Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program 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, which is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary this year, is the first of its kind for the United States and Japan. It 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:

Jordan Gregg Heiber, Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State

Rachelle Morgannette Johnson, Senior Legislative Assistant, United States Senate

Taria Siobhan McAfee, Attorney, Federal Aviation Administration

Matthew Adam Poggi, Economist, U.S. Department of Treasury

James Timothy Spillane, Supervisory Traffic Management Coordinator, Federal Aviation Administration

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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 we look back to the establishment of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program fifteen years ago, it’s fitting that this outstanding group of Mansfield Fellows is looking forward to facilitating U.S.-Japan cooperation on some of the most challenging issues of the future,” said Gordon Flake, executive director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. “The fifteenth group of Fellows is committed to helping the U.S. and Japan work together to address challenges ranging from financial system reform to aerospace control and regional security. The Fellows’ forward-looking objectives demonstrate the enduring value of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program. Although the U.S.-Japan relationship has matured since the program was established in 1994, the goal of the program – to build a corps of U.S. government employees with the Japan expertise and networks that contribute to greater understanding and cooperation between our countries – remains as relevant as ever to the U.S.-Japan partnership and to our countries’ ability to resolve current and future challenges.”

Since the Fellowships were established, 91 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.

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