



THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2011

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

FOUR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AWARDED MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIPS
New Group Brings Number of Mansfield Fellows to One Hundred

(Washington, D.C.) The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation today announced the seventeenth group of Mansfield Fellows, bringing the number of U.S. federal government officials to have been awarded Mike Mansfield Fellowships to one hundred. 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 Mike Mansfield Fellowship 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. The one hundred Fellows who have entered the program since its establishment represent 22 agencies and departments of the U.S. government. This year the following four U.S. government officials were selected by a bi-national committee:

Christopher S. Fanning, Business and Industry Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Department of Commerce

Kristofer F. Padilla, Major, United States Air Force

Nathan Purdy, Front Line Manager, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Jennifer Reynolds, Associate Analyst, Congressional Budget Office

The Mike 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 training 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.

“We are delighted to mark a milestone for the Mike Mansfield Fellowships – with this latest group of Mansfield Fellows, one hundred federal government officials have now entered this unique exchange program,” said Gordon Flake, executive director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. “This milestone comes at a time when U.S.-Japan cooperation is more important than ever. In the months following the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Fellowship Program’s ongoing relevance has been underscored by the roles alumni Fellows have played in U.S. government efforts to contribute to disaster relief in Japan and to learn from Japan’s experience. The seventeenth group of Mansfield Fellows is committed to helping the U.S. and Japan address common challenges – including regional security and long-term budgetary and economic challenges – as well as shared goals in the areas of aviation safety and international fisheries management. Their Fellowships will enable them to build on their expertise in these areas, expand their understanding of Japan and its government, and help contribute to a stronger U.S.-Japan alliance in the years ahead.”

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that promotes understanding and cooperation in U.S.-Asia relations. Maureen and Mike Mansfield’s values, ideals and vision for U.S.-Asia relations continue through the Foundation’s exchanges, dialogues, research and educational programs, which create networks among U.S. and Asian leaders, explore the underlying issues influencing public policies, and increase awareness about the nations and peoples of Asia.

The Foundation was established in 1983 to honor Mike Mansfield (1903-2001), a revered public servant, statesman and diplomat who played a pivotal role in many of the key domestic and international issues of the 20th century as U.S. congressman from Montana, Senate majority leader and finally as U.S. ambassador to Japan. The Foundation has offices in Washington, D.C.; Tokyo, Japan; and Missoula, Montana.

###