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NEWS RELEASE

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U.S.-JAPAN NUCLEAR WORKING GROUP RELEASES STATEMENT ON SHARED STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

(Washington, D.C.) The U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group, an independent bi-national group of experts tasked with examining the broader strategic implications of the March 2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, has released a statement summarizing its findings and recommendations. The report, “Statement on Shared Strategic Priorities in the Aftermath of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident,” reflects the group’s consensus after twelve months of discussions with opinion leaders in Japan, the United States, and the global nuclear government community in Vienna, Austria.

Over the course of these discussions, members of the U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group (listed below) sought to develop a fuller understanding of the circumstances and implications of Japan’s quickly evolving energy policy situation. Their shared concerns about the strategic interests impacted by changes to Japan’s energy paradigm led them to articulate: issues that must be addressed irrespective of Japan’s energy policy decisions; broader strategic concerns within Japan’s energy policy debate; and strategic recommendations for the industries and governments of Japan and the United States. These outcomes are outlined in the report, which is available on the Foundation’s website at:

<http://mansfieldfdn.org/mfdn2011/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/US-Japan-Nuclear-Working-Group-Statement.pdf>

“Japan clearly faces critical decisions about the future path of its energy policy, decisions that will impact our shared strategic interests,” said Gordon Flake, executive director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. “It is our hope that the concerns and priorities outlined by the U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group will be factored into Japan’s nuclear energy policy debate and into the considerations of the Japanese and American energy and foreign policy communities. We look forward to discussing the group’s findings with the Washington and Tokyo policy communities and with the Japanese public in the months ahead.” Details about public seminars to be held in Tokyo, Osaka, and Hiroshima this fall will be made available on the Foundation’s website in the preceding weeks.

The activities of the U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group have been made possible primarily through the support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the Federation of American Scientists, the Smith Richardson Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation. Generous in-kind support was provided by

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Group members include the following individuals:

MEMBERS

Nobumasa Akiyama, Associate Professor, Hitotsubashi University & Adjunct Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)

Ralph Cossa, President, Pacific Forum CSIS

Craig Hansen, Vice President Nuclear Equipment, Babcock & Wilcox Nuclear Energy

Takuya Hattori, President, Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF)

Susan E. Pickett, Former Associate Professor, Department of Nuclear Engineering and Management, University of Tokyo*

Thomas Sanders, Associate Laboratory Director for Clean Energy Initiatives, Savannah River National Laboratory; Former President, American Nuclear Society

Sharon Squassoni, Director and Senior Fellow, Proliferation Prevention Program, CSIS

Nobuo Tanaka, Former Executive Director, International Energy Agency

Masakazu Toyoda, Chairman, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan

CHAIRMEN

Charles Ferguson, President, Federation of American Scientists

L. Gordon Flake, Executive Director, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

OBSERVERS

Man Cho, Director, Energy Industries Team, U.S. Department of Commerce

Mary Beth Nikitin, Specialist in Nonproliferation, Congressional Research Service (CRS)

Masakatsu Ota, Senior & Editorial Writer, Kyodo News**

Tatsujiro Suzuki, Vice Chairman, Japan Atomic Energy Commission

PROGRAM MANAGER

Ryan Shaffer, Associate Director of Programs, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

* currently a training officer at the International Atomic Energy Agency

** in participating in U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group activities, did not receive resources or support from any organization other than the participant's home institution

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that promotes understanding and cooperation in U.S.-Asia relations. The Foundation celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. It 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. 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 has offices in Washington, D.C.; Tokyo, Japan; and Missoula, Montana.