

# GRIPS-Mansfield Foundation Joint Seminar

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 Time: 12:00-13:30

Venue: The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), 1st Floor, Meeting Room 1AB

## “Narrowing the Development Gap: the Role of U.S. and Japanese Private Sector Investment in the Mekong”

開発格差を縮める：メコン地域の開発における日米民間セクターの役割

Speaker : **Jocelyn Roberts** (Mansfield Fellow)

ジョスリン・ロバーツ (マンズフィールド・フェロー)

Lower Mekong Initiative Coordinator, Office of Multilateral Affairs, Department of State  
米国国務省 東アジア太平洋局多国間課 メコン河下流域イニシアティブ調整官

Moderator: **Toshihiro Kudo** 工藤 年博 政策研究大学院大学 教授

Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Description: It is clear that the infrastructure investment requirements for developing Asia are enormous. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has called for increased engagement of the private sector to contribute to closing the development gap that governments, multilateral development banks, and non-profits have not been able to fill. The U.S. and Japanese governments continue to implement billions and trillions of dollars' worth of foreign aid programs and support memberships in the ADB, World Bank, IMF, UN, and other organizations contributing to national development strategy implementation in the region. The private sector also has a key role to play in both economic growth and regional connectivity. The U.S. and Japanese governments both collaborate on government foreign aid programs and promote private sector engagement abroad and integrate private sector actors in partnership approaches to the region.

In this presentation, Ms. Roberts will discuss the role of the private sector in Southeast Asian economic development and U.S. and Japanese trends in foreign direct investment in the Mekong sub-region. Her talk will cover some recent research on barriers to private investment in the region and what can be done by the private sector as well as governments to reduce them.

Ms. Roberts has over twenty years of experience studying, living, and working in and on Asia. She began her career in the Washington State International Trade Division Japan Program matching Japanese business delegations to American high-tech partner companies. Her first year in Japan was 1999-2000 on a Miki Takeo International Memorial Fellowship, looking at budget changes in Japan's overseas technical assistance programs after the Asian financial crisis. Following graduate school at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Ms. Roberts worked at a variety of development organizations in Indonesia and Cambodia. In 2012 she began working on bilateral and multilateral policy at the U.S. Department of State. As the Lower Mekong Initiative Coordinator in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, her responsibilities include developing U.S. inter-agency participation in LMI programs, managing the LMI budget, and communicating with member countries to plan and organize eight annual multilateral meetings. She is currently a Mansfield Fellow and has been working with GOJ ministries and offices to understand Japan's impact on Southeast Asian economic development.

Toshihiro Kudo, professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), will serve as a moderator for the event. He received his MPhil from the University of Cambridge and joined the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), Japan in 1994. From 2000-03 he was a visiting research fellow at Yangon Institute of Economics, Myanmar. He served as Director-General of Research Planning Department at IDE, and joined GRIPS in 2015. His research interests include the industrial development of Southeast Asia, particularly Myanmar, and regional cooperation in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).

**\*Language: English**

**\*Admission: Free**

**\*Please bring your own lunch.**

**For registration and inquiries please**

**For access to the GRIPS campus:**

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**<http://www.grips.ac.jp/about/access>**

## The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

GRIPS was established in October 1997, superseding the Graduate School of Policy Science (GSPS) at Saitama University, which was the first graduate school for Policy Studies in Japan. GRIPS is a government-sponsored graduate school and research institute which has been restructured into an entirely new and unique entity. GRIPS aims to be an international center of excellence for the education of future leaders in the policy arena, for the advancement of policy research, and for the systematic collection and dissemination of policy-related information. In order to accomplish these aims, a Graduate School, a Policy Research Center and a Policy Information Center have been established. GRIPS is the first graduate school without facilities for undergraduates in Japan in the wider disciplines of social science. GRIPS is located in Roppongi, Tokyo, with easy access to the political and business headquarters of Japan.

The degree programs are designed to attract outstanding students and thoroughly prepare them for distinguished careers in policy setting. After a period of thorough preparation since its foundation in 1997, GRIPS welcomed its first domestic students in April 2000, followed six months later by the first international students. About two-thirds of the student-intake of GRIPS consist of international students coming from over sixty countries in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Our students normally have three to five years working experience for governments, central banks, custom offices or other relevant organizations. The International Programs at GRIPS are conducted solely in English, while Domestic Programs are taught in Japanese.

GRIPS aims to be the center of a consortium, consisting of industry, government and academia, for the exchange of information, ideas and personnel among graduate schools, government-related institutes and private research institutes in Japan. In addition, through its international faculty, student body and alumni, and by promoting international exchange of policy research and information, GRIPS aims to establish an international network among academics and government officials in the field of policy studies, contributing to the promotion of a better understanding among peoples around the world in an age of globalization.

## The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation was created in 1983 to advance Maureen and Mike Mansfield's life-long efforts to promote understanding and cooperation among the nations and peoples of Asia and the United States. The Foundation sponsors exchanges, dialogues and publications that 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 Mansfield Foundation's geographic focus is Northeast Asia and India as it relates to that region. The Foundation receives support from individuals, corporations and philanthropic organizations. It also provides support to The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana.

<http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/default.php>

The Mansfield Fellowship Program - named after Mike Mansfield, former U.S. ambassador to Japan, U.S. Senate majority leader, and U.S. congressman from Montana - is a first-of-its-kind program for the United States and Japan. The U.S. Congress created the Mansfield Fellowships in 1994 to build a corps of U.S. federal government employees with proficiency in the Japanese language and practical, firsthand knowledge about Japan and its government. During the one-year program in Japan, Fellows develop an in-depth understanding of Japan's government and policymaking process and establish relationships with their counterparts in the government of Japan and the business, professional and academic communities. The Mansfield Fellowships are administered by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, with the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, as grantor.

The Foundation has offices in Washington, D.C., Tokyo, Japan, and Missoula, Montana.