

GRIPS-Mansfield Foundation Joint Seminar

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2017 Time: 12:00-13:30

Venue: The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), 3rd Floor, Room 3C

“ Keeping the Lights On: An Outsider’s View of Japan’s Energy Policy and Electricity Markets”

外からの視点：日本のエネルギー政策と電力システム改革

Speaker: **Benjamin Foster** (Mansfield Fellow)
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Moderator: **Hisanori Nei** 根井 寿規 政策研究大学院大学 教授
Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Description: In energy markets the world over, technological innovation, changing economics, growing environmental concerns, and new consumer expectations are calling into question the dominant policies and institutions of the past century. Twenty years ago, the United States and several European countries began liberalizing their electricity markets; today, the major challenge is integrating a growing share of renewables and distributed generation into the grid. Japan is doing both at once: undertaking a full-scale effort to liberalize the electricity, natural gas and heating sectors while also promoting the growth of new resources.

In his presentation, Mr. Foster will share observations from his time as a Mansfield Fellow on aspects of Japan’s energy market reform, including retail and wholesale restructuring, renewables and distributed generation, energy and capacity markets, and the energy policy process. Along the way, he will outline similarities and differences between the American and Japanese electricity industries, and discuss challenges they share in keeping the lights on - safely, cheaply, and cleanly - amid major changes in the sector.

Mr. Foster has a decade of experience working on energy policy and markets. Currently, he is an analyst in the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). He works primarily on policy analysis and market design related to energy storage, distributed energy resources, demand response, and transmission investment. Prior to FERC, Mr. Foster led analyses of state energy efficiency policies and programs at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. As a Mansfield Fellow, he is working with colleagues in the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry’s (METI) Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, the Electricity and Gas Market Surveillance Commission, and the Organization for Cross-Regional Coordination of Transmission Operators. Mr. Foster has degrees from the University of Virginia and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

Hisanori Nei, a professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, will serve as a moderator for the event. He joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) in 1981. After returning from Iraq at the time of the Iraq War in 2003, he served as a director of Nuclear Power Inspection, Petroleum Refining, and Middle East Affairs at METI. Prior to that he held various deputy director positions related to renewable energy, coal industry and global warming issues. When the Great East Japan Earthquake hit the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in 2011, he worked more with the U.S. mission, and was assigned as a Councillor, Cabinet Secretariat working on the response to the Nuclear Accident. He joined GRIPS in 2014 as a professor.

***Language: English**

***Admission: Free**

***Please bring your own lunch.**

For registration and inquiries please contact:

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(Ms. Kaori Suzuki)

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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.