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THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

Connecting People and Ideas to Advance Mutual Interests in U.S.-Asia Relations

Taking Stock: Plutonium in Northeast Asia

International House of Japan
Iwasaki Koyata Memorial Hall
June 28, 2018
10 am to Noon

The future of nuclear energy in Northeast Asia continues to be uncertain seven years after the devastating accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. In Japan, the process of restarting nuclear power plants has been slow. In South Korea, safety issues and restructuring of nuclear regulation has slowed anticipated growth. Even China, which is building more than half of all nuclear power reactors under construction worldwide, has slowed its projected growth.

This increasingly sober environment for nuclear power coupled with plans for closing the fuel cycle raises significant questions. With depressed growth in nuclear energy and low fuel prices, recycling spent fuel continues to be uneconomic and no technical panacea for solving nuclear waste issues. What is the future of the closed fuel cycle in Japan and what are the challenges? As a leader in transparency regarding its plutonium stockpile, are there additional measures Japan can undertake to promote confidence regionally? How much and what kinds of information should countries with such capabilities share with each other? Can measures in Northeast Asia help influence global progress in reducing risks from stockpiled plutonium?

Please join us for a stimulating discussion among U.S., Japanese and Korean experts. Speakers include Sharon Squassoni (George Washington University), Masakatsu Ota (Kyodo News), Alan Kuperman (University of Texas at Austin), Jorshan Choi (UC Berkeley Nuclear Research Center), Yongsoo Hwang (Korean Atomic Energy Institute), and Thomas Countryman (Arms Control Association).

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by email to Mansfield Foundation tokyoadmin@mansfieldfdn.org with your name, affiliation and contact information.

About the project: *With funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and support from the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, this George Washington University project has focused on how to enhance transparency regarding fissile material to promote nuclear security in three areas: nuclear programs in nuclear weapon states, states that have or are developing nuclear-fueled naval ships, and states with civilian reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. The results of the research will be published in early fall 2018.*