

MAUREEN MANSFIELD WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SERIES: TRILATERAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The Maureen Mansfield Women's Empowerment Series: Trilateral Youth Empowerment Program focuses on **broadening participation of young women in the democratic process and amplifying youth voices in policy decision-making processes in Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States.**

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Despite their commitment to liberal democratic values, Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea struggle to ensure equitable opportunities for women to secure leadership roles in the democratic process. Social and political obstacles continue to hinder the effective political participation of young women in these three countries.

Funded by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the Japan-ROK-U.S. Trilateral Youth Empowerment Program will be integral in building more inclusive democracies in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States by bolstering marginalized voices and empowering young women from these three countries to take a more active role in politics.

According to a 2020 report from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), women under 30 **“are the least represented in leadership positions”** and **“less than 1 percent [of parliamentarians] are women. ([source](#))”**

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Participants will be divided into five three-person groups based on their topics of interest. Working with an experienced mentor, each team is expected to collaborate for nine months to generate policy recommendations and action plans to address their chosen public policy issue. After the nine months of workshops and research, participants will convene for a five-day, in-person capstone meeting in Washington, DC.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Each virtual workshop will be between 60-90 minutes. Tentative schedules are as follows:

End of January or early February 2023

- Virtual Orientation

February - July 2023

- Monthly Virtual Workshops
- 3 Bi-Monthly Virtual Mentor Check-Ins

August 2023

- In-person Five-Day Capstone Meeting in DC

** Participants are also expected to participate in small group meetings as needed to produce a policy brief before the in-person capstone meeting in Washington, DC.*

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program provides a space for young college women to develop their skills and ideas by working with established experts on public policy and their peers. During the program, participants will also develop intergenerational partnerships with their mentors through continued cooperation.

Each group of mentors and participants will generate policy recommendations to address different public policy challenges. Participants will present these recommendations to Congressional staff on Capitol Hill during their capstone meeting in Washington, DC. Participants are also encouraged to prepare an alternative medium for their policy recommendations in order for them to reach wider audience (i.e. making a video, using social media, etc.). In addition to the policy recommendations, these dialogues will foster multilateral and multicultural cooperation among young women in Japan, South Korea, and the United States.



Maureen Mansfield

APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION

Applications are due **January 10, 2023, no later than 11:59 p.m. (EST)**, and can be submitted electronically to applications@mansfieldfdn.org. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee and if selected on the first round, candidates will be contacted separately to submit a short video for the final stage of the selection process. Finalists will be announced on **January 30, 2023**. The Mansfield Foundation will select up to fifteen participants for this program. For further information, please contact Ari Lee, Associate Director of Programs, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation at alee@mansfieldfdn.org.

All eligible applicants must:

- Identify as women
- Be 18-24 years old and currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program
- Be a legal resident of the United States, Japan, and/or Republic of Korea
- Be able to attend virtual workshops and travel to Washington, DC for a weeklong in-person capstone meeting in August 2023
- Be able to communicate comfortably in English



The Maureen Mansfield Women's Empowerment Series: Trilateral Youth Empowerment Program is administered by the Mansfield Foundation with funding provided by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo through an open grant competition award. All program associated costs including flight, lodging, meals, etc. are going to be covered.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes understanding and cooperation among the nations and peoples of Asia and the United States. 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, DC; Tokyo, Japan; and Missoula, Montana.