

# GRIPS-Mansfield Foundation Joint Seminar

Date: Friday, December 7th, 2012

Time: 12:00-13:30

Venue: The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

1st Floor, Room 1A

## ***“The Fiscal Cliff and Beyond”***

Speaker : **Jennifer Wheelock** (Mansfield Fellow)  
Associate Analyst  
Congressional Budget Office

Moderator: **Mr. Hideaki Tanaka**  
Professor, Graduate School of Governance Studies, Meiji University  
Visiting Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Description: With the 2012 election decided, President Obama and Congress have now turned their attention to the fiscal cliff. As coined by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, the fiscal cliff refers to a number of revenue increases and spending cuts scheduled to take effect in early 2013 that could plunge the US economy back into recession. Given the economic uncertainty around the globe, analysts are carefully watching developments in the unfolding discussions between the President and Congress.

While the focus is currently on the fiscal cliff, Congress faces a number of budget battles in 2013 including another debt-ceiling increase, resolution of the budget for fiscal year 2013, and eventual deliberation of the 2014 fiscal year budget due on October 1, 2013. These budget discussions must take place regardless of any “grand bargain” that may be reached on the nation’s long term fiscal health. The next few weeks will be crucial to not only resolving the immediate concern of the fiscal cliff, but also setting the stage for the budget discussions that must follow.

Join Mansfield Fellow Jennifer Wheelock for a detailed discussion on the components of the fiscal cliff, possibilities for resolution, and a discussion of the other big budget challenges the US Congress faces in 2013. Prior to participating in the Mansfield Fellowship, Jennifer Wheelock spent almost 7 years at the Congressional Budget Office.

Prof. Tanaka, Professor of Graduate School of Governance Studies, Meiji University, will serve as a moderator/commentator for the event. He had worked at the Ministry of Finance, former Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, and Australia National University (visiting researcher). He had been a professor at Hitotsubashi University until he returned to the Ministry of Finance in August 2010. Being a well-known advocate of budget and budget system reform, he was appointed as a member of advisory board to Mr. Kan, former Prime Minister, when he was a deputy Prime Minister.

**\*Language: English**  
**For registration and inquiries please**  
**contact: [m-kaneda@grips.ac.jp](mailto:m-kaneda@grips.ac.jp) or**  
**03-6439-6037 (Ms. Kaneda)**

**\*Admission Free.**

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

For access to the GRIPS campus:  
7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-8677  
<http://www.grips.ac.jp/about/access.htm>

## 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. More than half of the student-intake of GRIPS consist of international students coming from nearly forty countries in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Our students normally have three to five years experience working 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](#).

The Mansfield Fellowship Program - named after Mike Mansfield, former U.S. ambassador to Japan, Senate majority leader, U.S. senator and U.S. congressman from Montana - is a first-of-its-kind, government-to-government exchange for both the United States and Japan. The U.S. Congress created the Mansfield Fellowships in 1994 in order 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 two-year Fellowships, U.S. federal government employees develop an in-depth understanding of Japan, learn how its government works, and establish relationships with their counterparts in the government of Japan as well as in 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.