Finance, Trade and Development

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The decision to apply for the Mansfield Fellowship Program originated from a suggestion made by a colleague whom I met while attending the International Career Advancement Program (ICAAP) in November of 2003. I seriously considered the decision by reviewing the Mansfield Fellowship Program's website and reaching out to Ebony Bostic, a Mansfield Fellow, whom I was introduced to by a friend and colleagues while attending the ICAAP.

I had prior experiences in Japan as an exchange student in 1994–1995 and as a Graduate Management Intern at Seven Eleven's Ito Yokado near Tokyo Tower in 1999. The language would be a challenge for me since I had not used it consistently and thus, I sought tutorship from a Japanese friend. The ten-month intensive language training program in Arlington, Virginia was a tremendous help as one of the language teachers took an in-depth interest in making sure that I would be prepared to speak and understand Japanese. The "*sensei*" recognized that I was a better listener than speaker and thus she would record conversations every week on a tape so I could listen. I really appreciated her efforts as this provided the foundation for the two months training while living with a Japanese family in Kanazawa, Japan. I went on to Tokyo where I would spend a year studying how Japan's financial system operates at the Bank of Japan, The Tokyo Stock Exchange, The Japan Financial Authority and PCAAOB as well as the Japanese Diet.

My first rotation was within the Japan Financial Service Agency (FSA). I was very fortunate to have already known two FSA colleagues, from their respective times spent at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. I was given assignments to help craft international policy on payment systems in both English and Japanese. My FSA colleagues would frequently ask several questions on how the NY Fed would approach payment risk. The highlight of my FSA experience was when I was invited to speak at several Inter-Asia Conferences on Financial Securities Intermediation and Basel III. These conferences were two-week all day conferences where representatives from other Asia FSAs such as Singapore, Malaysia, China, the Philippines, and Thailand met to review respective financial systems challenges and craft inter-Asia policy. I was able to expand on my knowledge of the Asian financial markets and network with colleagues. Ironically, I had the chance to meet several colleagues from that event during their time spent in New York City.

After studying at the Japan FSA, I rotated into the Bank of Japan and noticed a huge difference in the facilities. The Japan FSA was housed in an older building that had poor air circulation and lighting. The Bank of Japan was much brighter with more recent facilities. However, the Japan FSA was in the process of building a modern facility. My time spent at the Bank of Japan included several rotations into different functions that included: International Affairs, Foreign Exchange, Economics and Banking Departments. Daily I was bombarded with economic and banking questions from colleagues on how the New York Fed would approach issues. I frequently found myself in the middle of the table with the inability to finish my meal as I spent more time speaking. Nonetheless, my Japanese ability improved tremendously as colleagues at the Bank of Japan used *keigo* Japanese. During my time spent at the Bank of Japan, I was able to conduct and present research findings regarding the usage of FICO scores within the Japanese household. I was a bit surprised that the presentation, all in Japanese, was fully attended and included the current-day governor of the Bank of Japan, Mr. Shirakawa Maasaki. I had several highlights while at the Bank of Japan, including traveling to the Bank of Japan Kanazawa branch for a capital markets symposium on the usage of bonds and federal debt. It was the second time I had visited the Kanazawa branch of the Bank of Japan, as the first time I visited was during my language study period in Kanazawa. I attended several senior-level central bank meetings that included discussions on monetary policy communications. In attendance was the governor of the Bank of Japan, Mr. Fukui Toshihiko and the Executive Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Christine Cummings. I also attended private meetings with IMF officials. However, the most memorable experience I had while at the Bank of Japan was when my colleagues lifted me up and threw me in the air cheering "*bonzai*" as we celebrated one of my presentations.

My next rotation was at the Tokyo Stock Exchange and my most memorable since I was the first ever non-Japanese to sit on the trading floor of the exchange. It was a special moment for me as I learned to monitor both Japanese government bonds and equity on the floor. Also, the trading floor had high security with few given passage to enter. The highlight of my experience at TSE included taking a business trip to Osaka regarding the listing of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). I also attended the Financial Industry Symposium at Ariake, where I handed out flyers and communicated the services that TSE had to offer to the public. This was major event and in fact, the TSE booth was always crowded to the point where we ran out of brochures and merchandise. I was frequently asked "Why are you at TSE?," since it very unusual to see a non-Japanese at TSE.

Upon my return to the New York Fed, I was able to provide assistance to many of my colleagues at both FSA and the Bank of Japan. I participated in an examination

at a major Japanese bank in New York City with my colleagues from the FSA. I also have attended several symposiums, including both JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) and SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association) events where I met colleagues from the FSA, BoJ and TSE (Mr. Atsushi Saito, CEO of TSE).

I continue to meet and work with several Japanese colleagues and expats on a variety of topics. I often meet colleagues at events sponsored by organizations including the Japan Society-NYC, where we were able to raise a significant amount of money to support the tsunami victims. Indeed it is an extreme honor and privilege to be a Mike Mansfield Fellow and one I take with pride and dignity.

Kenneth Goodwin participated in the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program as a representative of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from 2004–2006. During his Fellowship year in Japan, he served in full-time placements in Japan's Financial Services Agency, the Bank of Japan and the office of the Honorable Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi, LDP Member, House of Councillors. He currently is a business unit compliance officer in Markets & International Banking in the RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland) Americas headquarters.