

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2011

CONTACT:

Margaret Mihori, Assistant Executive Director

(202) 653-9800

mmihori@jusfc.gov

www.jusfc.gov

**PAIGE COTTINGHAM-STREATER JOINS
JAPAN-US FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION
AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

WASHINGTON, D.C. The Japan-US Friendship Commission, an independent federal agency that provides support for training and information to help prepare Americans to better meet the challenges and opportunities in the US-Japan relationship, announced that Paige Cottingham-Streater will join the Commission as its new executive director on July 1, 2011. As part of her duties, she will serve as director of activities for the US CULCON panel, and she will also serve as executive director of the US-Japan Bridging Foundation, a joint creation of the Commission and CULCON.

“My fellow Commissioners and I are delighted with Paige's decision to serve as Executive Director of the Japan US Friendship Commission. She brings considerable expertise and experience from her work at the Mansfield Foundation and a deep knowledge and interest in Japan and the US-Japan relationship,” said Commission Chairman Thierry Porté. Ms. Cottingham-Streater commented, “I am delighted to join the Commission and continue a long tradition of promoting a strong US-Japan relationship.”

Ms. Cottingham-Streater most recently was Deputy Executive Director of the Mansfield Foundation where she has worked since 1995. Among her many duties there, she directed the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program, a Congressionally-mandated \$2.2 million professional exchange for mid-level US government employees.

Before joining the Mansfield Foundation, Ms. Cottingham-Streater was Director for the US-Japan Project at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C. In this capacity she supervised visiting scholars, conducted research on US-Japan issues, managed the project's budget and published the project's newsletter. Previously, she served as Counsel and Legislative Assistant in the office of Congressman Donald M. Payne (D-NJ), where she monitored legislative initiatives involving education, civil rights, law enforcement, labor, and financial and social policy. She was also a participant in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET), a staff attorney at the US Department of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and a law clerk at US Department of Justice, US Marshals Service.

Ms. Cottingham-Streater is the recipient of the Foreign Minister's Commendation in recognition of her longstanding work to strengthen US-Japan relations. The award, made on March 31, 2004, commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Amity between Japan and the United States.

Ms. Cottingham-Streater received her Juris Doctor from the National Law Center at George Washington University and is a member of the New Jersey Bar Association. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College in Government and Asian Studies. Ms. Cottingham-Streater has written articles for publications of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and she has spoken on US-Japan relations at numerous conferences in the United States and Japan.

The Japan-US Friendship Commission provides grants to nonprofit entities in the following areas: Japanese Studies in the United States; Public Affairs/Education; the study of the United States in Japan; and the Arts.

#####