



公益財団法人 **中東調査会**  
Middle East Institute of Japan  
المعهد الياباني لبحوث الشرق الأوسط

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## *MEIJ Monthly Report (April 2018)*

### **1. MEIJ's Events**

#### (1) Top Meetings

##### **Japan's Agriculture: Challenges and Internationalization**

- Date: Wednesday, April 25
- Venue: Hotel Okura Tokyo
- Speaker: Vice-Minister for International Affairs,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Hiromichi Matsushima
- Summary: Mr. Matsushima discussed the domestic and global food issues in relation to topics such as trade- relations reinforcement and agricultural development through technological innovations.



#### (2) Seminars

##### **Syria: Latest Situation and Future Prospect**

- Date: Wednesday, April 25
- Venue: AP Marunouchi Tokyo
- Speaker: Senior Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka
- Summary: The lecture centered around the latest situation of the Syrian crisis post-foreign intervention, alleged chemical attacks by the Assad regime, power dynamics among the involved actors, and prospects of the conflict.



## **2. MEIJ's Activities**

(1) *Middle East Topics* (Members only)

**April 2018 Issue** (Published on May 1)

1. Algeria: Secretary-General of the FLN Supports Bouteflika's Re-election
2. Iraq: Iraqi Prime Minister al-Abadi Visits Japan
3. Syria: US-led Intervention Begins
4. Turkey: Presidential- and General-Elections Dates Move Up

\*Refer to our website for details.

[https://www.meij.or.jp/trend\\_analysis/topics/](https://www.meij.or.jp/trend_analysis/topics/)

(2) *Radical Islamists Monitor*

(Members only)

**No. 1 "IS Spokesperson Releases a Speech"** (April 24)

**No. 2 "Taliban Declares Its Intention to Mount an Offensive in 2018"** (April 25)

\*Refer to our website for details.

[https://www.meij.or.jp/trend\\_analysis/monitor/](https://www.meij.or.jp/trend_analysis/monitor/)

(3) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

**No. 1 "Palestine & Israel: Clashes at the Gaza Borders Intensify"** (April 2, Chief Research Fellow Isamu Nakashima)

**No.2 "Egypt: Re-Election of President al-Sisi (Official Results)"** (April 3, Research Fellow Misa Kanaya)

**No. 3 "Palestine & Israel: Clashes at the Gaza Borders, Vol. 2"** (April 9, Chief Research Fellow Isamu Nakashima)

**No. 4 "Egypt: Ministerial Conference on Renaissance Dam Takes Place in Sudan"** (April 10, Research Fellow Kohei Nishidate)

**No. 5 "Syria: Issues Surrounding 'Chemical-Weapon Usage'"** (April 10,

Senior Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

**No. 6 "Syria: US, France, and UK Launch an Offensive"** (April 14, Takaoka)

**No. 7 "Iraq: Economic Issues"** (April 16, Takaoka)

**No. 8 "Israel: Alleged Attacks on Iran's Facility in Syria"** (April 18, Nakashima)

**No. 9 "Turkey: Presidential- and General-Elections Dates Move Up"** (April 24, Research Fellow Mayu Kaneko)

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## **3. Others**

(1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

**Thursday, April 4:** Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Recep Akdağ paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister (PM) Abe in Tokyo. They confirmed their willingness to strengthen bilateral relations and exchanged views on North Korea and Syria situations.

**Friday, April 5:** Prime Minister Abe attended a summit meeting with Iraqi counterpart Haider al-Abadi in Tokyo. They discussed post-conflict reconstructions in Iraq and North Korea and Middle East situations. They exchanged a note on international yen loan for water- and irrigation-systems maintenance. On the same day, Foreign Minister Kono met with Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

**Wednesday, April 25:** Foreign Minister Kono participated in "Supporting the future of Syria and the region, Brussels II Conference, 2018" and paid a courtesy call on Lebanese Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri. They discussed bilateral-relations

development, impacts of Syrian and Palestinian refugees on Lebanon, and Japan's humanitarian aid to Lebanon. Lebanese side communicated their willingness to strengthen economic ties with Japan.

**Wednesday, April 25:** Foreign Minister Kono attended a meeting with Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif. Japanese side conveyed their support for Iran's commitment to the JCPOA and their willingness to advance bilateral relationship based on the JCPOA. They exchanged views on situations surrounding the JCPOA and North Korea.

**Saturday, April 28:** Foreign Minister Kono paid a courtesy call on King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein of Jordan. Japanese side conveyed their appreciation to Jordan for hosting the Aqaba Process Meeting and showed their willingness to cooperate on counter-terrorism measures, to deepen bilateral relationship, and to reinforce support to Jordan. They discussed Middle East situations, including the prospects of the "Corridor of Peace and Prosperity," and North Korea situation.

**Sunday, April 29:** Foreign Minister Kono hosted the Sixth Ministerial-Level Meeting on the Four Party Consultative Unit for the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity." Jordan's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad N. Fakhoury, Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry Eliyahu Cohen, and Palestine's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Riad Malki joined the Meeting. The discussions centered around

the progress of Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP).

**Sunday, April 29-Monday, April 30:** Prime Minister Abe visited the UAE and joined the Japan-UAE Business Forum. Japanese side conveyed their interest in cooperating in high-tech domain and in promoting Japanese food in the UAE. PM Abe attended a meeting with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan. They agreed to reinforce the bilateral strategic partnership in various domains.

**Tuesday, May 1:** Prime Minister Abe attended a summit meeting with King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein of Jordan. They discussed international and regional situations, economic cooperation, and Japan-Jordan bilateral relations.

**Tuesday, May 1:** Prime Minister Abe attended a summit meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. They discussed the peace process, Japan's support for Palestine, "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity," and North Korea situations. Japanese side reiterated their support for a two-state solution.

**Wednesday, May 2:** Prime Minister Abe visited Israel and met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The two sides discussed national security issues and bilateral economic relations, agreed to strengthen strategic cooperation, and confirmed the establishment of a joint foreign and defense consultation. Japanese side mentioned their plan to promote entrepreneurship and to hold seminars and matching events in areas of cyber, innovation

and biotechnology, based on the “Japan Israel Innovation Network (JIIN)” launched last year. Other meeting topics included strengthening of cooperative relationship in cyber domain, Middle East peace, and North Korea situations.