



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 is a public interest incorporated association sponsored by Funding Member's membership fees.

MEIJ Monthly Report (August 2018)

1. MEIJ's Events

(1) Seminars

Political Situation in the Gulf Region

- Date: Wednesday, August 29
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Mr. Ken-ichiro Matubayashi, Director of the Second Middle East Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Summary: Mr. Matsubayashi gave a lecture on the latest Middle East situation, including US's withdrawal from JCPOA and its impact to other member states, Iran's internal and foreign policies, and shifts in the Saudi politics and society. The lecture was held off-the-record.



2. MEIJ's Activities

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

August 2018 Issue (Published on September 3)

1. Afghanistan: Government-led Peace Negotiations Face Difficulties
2. Yemen: Allied Forces' Strikes Cause More Civilian Casualties
3. Saudi Arabia: Expulsion of Canadian Ambassador
4. Turkey: Filing a Lawsuit Against the US at WTO

5. Jordan: Government Requisitions Land as Part of Natural Gas Import Plan

*Refer to our website for details.

https://www.meij.or.jp/trend_analysis/topics/

(2) *Radical Islamists Monitor*

(Members only)

No. 10 "Syria: A Video Clip Believed to Show Mr. Junpei Yasuda" (August 1)

*Refer to our website for details.

https://www.meij.or.jp/trend_analysis/monitor/

(3) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

No. 43 “Israel: Reaction of the Druze to the Nation-State Bill” (August 6, Research Fellow Kohei Nishidate)

No.44 “Iran: Rial Plunge Leads to Demonstrations and Summoning of Rouhani” (August 6, Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo)

No. 45 “Turkey: US Sanctions on Turkish Officials and Turkey’s Retaliation” (August 8, Research Fellow Mayu Kaneko)

No. 46 “Yemen: Collusion of Saudi, UAE and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula” (August 7, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

No. 47 “Iran: Impacts of the First-Stage US Sanctions (~Aug. 14)” (August 15, Kondo)

No. 48 “Turkey: Why Lira Depreciation Continues” (August 15, Kaneko)

No. 49 “Iran: Iran Signs the Caspian Sea Agreement” (August 16, Kondo)

No. 50 “Israel: Netanyahu Reveals ‘2030 Security Concept’” (August 17, Nishidate)

No. 51 “Saudi Arabia: Government Reportedly Calls Off Aramco IPO” (August 28, Takaoka)

No. 52 “Egypt: Al-Azhar Releases a Statement that Condemns Sexual Harassment” (August 28, Takaoka)

No. 53 “Saudi Arabia: Summary of Media Coverage on Delayed Aramco IPO (August 29, Research Fellow Misa Kanaya)

No. 54 “Qatar: Strengthens Lobbying in the US” (August 31, Takaoka)

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3. Others

(1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

Thursday, August 2: During his stay in Singapore for attending ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Foreign Minister Kono met with Turkish counterpart Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. In this Japan-Turkey Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, they discussed acceleration of Japan-Turkey EPA, promotion of bilateral cooperation in scientific technology field, and reinforcement of collaboration in disaster risk management.

Wednesday, August 8-Friday, August 10: UAE’s Minister of State Sultan Ahmen al-Jaber, Director-General and CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, visited Japan. Sultan paid a courtesy call on Vice Cabinet Secretary Nishimura (Aug. 8), attended the first meeting of Japan-UAE Comprehensive and Strategic Partnership Initiative (CSPI), and met with Vice Foreign Minister Sato (Aug. 9). Sultan attended a lunch meeting with Foreign Minister Kono and stated his willingness to reinforce bilateral cooperation based on CSPI (Aug. 10).

(2) Personnel Changes

August 20: Japanese Ambassador to New Zealand Hiroyasu Kobayashi (former Ambassador to Iran)

August 24: Japanese Ambassador to Iran Mitsugu Saito (former Ambassador to Oman)