



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 (December, 2018)

1. MEIJ's Events

1) Top Meetings

Complex Crises in the Middle East

- Date: Friday, December 7
- Venue: Hotel Okura Tokyo
- Speaker: Mr. Masayuki Yamauchi, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo, Specially-Appointed Professor at Musashino University, Executive Director at MEIJ
- Summary: Mr. Yamauchi characterized the current Middle East as a site of 'complex crises,' as multiple political issues exist simultaneously. Some factors that would affect the near future of the Middle East are Iran nuclear deal, Syrian conflict, and Israel-Iran dispute. Mr. Yamauchi also touched upon Turkey and Saudi Arabia's respective responses to the Khashoggi case.



(2) Briefing on Current Middle East Situation

What is Tukey Aiming For?

- Date: Friday, December 7
- Venue: Tokyo Satellite Campus, Doshisha Univ.
- Speaker: Mr. Masanori Naito, Professor at Graduate School of Global Studies at Doshisha University
- Summary: A better understanding of Turkey's objectives is achieved by analyzing its policies during the Cold War and abandonment of secularism. Mr. Naito explained the Khashoggi case, Saudi Prince MBS's policies, and Turkey's political aim related to these issues. He also described the process in which Turkey shifted its diplomatic focus from forging alliances to coexistence with its enemies.



The Middle East Seen from Egypt

- Date: Monday, December 17
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Mr. Takehiro Kagawa, Ambassador for International Economic Affairs
- Summary: Mr. Kagawa first explained Egypt's position in the Middle East and some of the structural factors causing regional instability. He then described Egypt's stance towards internal



and diplomatic policies of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the US. Mr. Kagawa elaborated on Egypt's involvement in the Middle East peace process and on the country's relationship with Russia and China. He concluded by stating the importance of connecting Egypt's industrial development to domestic and regional stability and Japan's role in this respect.

2. MEIJ's Activities

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

December 2018 Issue (Published on January 15, 2019)

1. Afghanistan: Attacks on Governmental Facilities in Kabul
2. Iraq: President Trump's Visit
3. Saudi Arabia: Cabinet Reform
4. Turkey: On the Additional Introduction of F-35 Fighter Planes
5. Palestine: Constitutional Court's Ruling on Dissolution of the Parliament and the General Elections

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(2) *Middle East Analysis Report*

(Members only)

No. 6 "Syria's Reconstruction and Russia, China, and Iran" (Published on November 28, Available from December 17)

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(3) *Radical Islamists Monitor*

(Members only)

No. 17 "Threat to Japan: 'Tahrir al-Sham' Refers to Japan's Support for Syria" (December 10)

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(4) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

No. 90 "Qatar: Declaration to Leave OPEC" (December 3, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

No. 91 "Iran: Terrorist Attack in Chabahar" (December 7, Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo)

No. 92 "Israel: Seeking Normalization with Arab States" (December 12, Research Fellow Kohei Nishidate)

No. 93 "Bahrain: Reelection of Parliamentary Members and Formation of a New Cabinet" (December 12, Takaoka)

No. 94 "Iran: Detention of Huawei CFO and Iran-China Relations" (December 13,

Kondo)

No. 95 “Syria: US Declares a Complete Withdrawal” (December 20, Takaoka)

No. 96 “Saudi Arabia: Rearrangement of Intel Agency” (December 25, Research Fellow Misa Kanaya)

No. 97 “Kuwait: Cabinet Reform” (December 26, Takaoka)

*Refer to our website for details.

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3. Others

(1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

Saturday, December 1: During his visit to Buenos Aires for attending the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Abe met with Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Friday, December 14: During his visit to Jordan, Foreign Minister Kono met with Foreign and Expatriates Minister Safadi.

Saturday, December 15: During his visit to Qatar, Foreign Minister Kono met with Prime Minister and Interior Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani.

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