



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

March 5,  
2019  
No. A18-11

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

## *MEIJ Monthly Report (February 2019)*

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

#### 1) Top Meetings

##### **Driving Change and Creating the Future through Sports**

- Date: Thursday, February 28
- Venue: Hotel Okura Tokyo
- Speaker: Mr. Daichi Suzuki, Commissioner of Japan Sports Agency
- Summary: Mr. Suzuki explained JSA's various initiatives, including National Health Promotion Project, martial art tourism, mid- and long-term plans for cultivating top-level athletes, and awareness-raising programs for athletes that receive governmental subsidies.



#### (2) Briefing on Current Middle East Situation

##### **Prospects of the JCPOA: Impacts of US Sanctions on Iran**

- Date: Friday, February 8
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo
- Summary: Kondo described the factors and impacts of the renewed US sanctions on Iran, and clarified the intentions of the involved parties (US, EU, Russia, China, and Iran).  
According to Kondo, Iran seeks to maintain the status quo, and it is imperative that international audience stay calm in face of Iran's occasional radical demeanors.



##### **"Stability" of Sisi's Second Term: An Analysis of Politics, Economy, and Diplomacy**

- Date: Friday, February 8
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Research Fellow Misa Kanaya

- Summary: Kanaya provided a comprehensive explanation on Egypt's current political, economic, and diplomatic situations. Due to successful counterterrorism and thorough repression of political foes, domestic security has improved. Sisi continues to seek greater concentration of power to his hands, and he thus pushes for constitutional change and expansion of the military's political and economic roles. At the same time, Sisi's emphasis on domestic issues has rendered Egypt almost incapable to act as a regional great power.

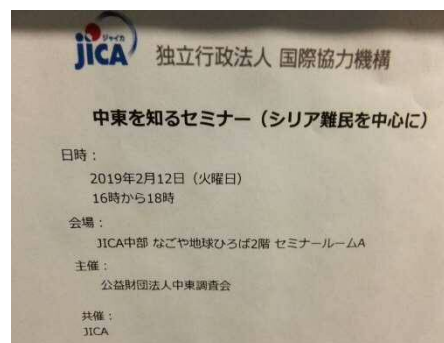


### (3) Others

#### **Introduction to the Middle East: On Syrian Refugees**

(Co-hosted by JICA and MEIJ)

- Date: Tuesday, February 12
- Venue: JICA Chubu Center, Nagoya
- Summary: Mr. Tatsuya Hayashi, Planner at the Second Europe and Middle East Division, provided an explanation of the refugee situation in Syria and Japan's initiatives for supporting them. Then, Chief Research Fellow Takaoka reported on the lives and attitudes of the refugees, based on the public opinion survey conducted in 2016, 2017, and 2018.



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

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

**February 2019 Issue** (Published on March 5)

1. Algeria: Protests against Bouteflika's Fifth Term Spread
2. Iran: Warsaw Meeting and Sochi Meeting
3. Syria: US Withdrawal from Syria
4. Turkey: Resigning of National Assembly Speaker Yıldırım and Election of the New Speaker

\*Refer to our website for details.

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

### (2) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

**No. 103 "Qatar: Shaikh Tamim's Visit to**

**Japan"** (February 1, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

**No. 104 "Lebanon: Establishment of a new Cabinet"** (February 5, Takaoka)

**No. 105 "Egypt: Draft of the Revised Constitution"** (February 6, Research Fellow Misa Kanaya)

**No. 106 "Saudi Arabia: Appointment of New Vice Minister of Defense and Ambassador to the US"** (February 25, Kanaya)

**No. 107 "Lebanon: UK Bans Hezbollah Activities"** (February 26, Takaoka)

**No. 108 "Iran: Foreign Minister Zarif Resigns"** (February 26, Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo)

\*Refer to our website for details.

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

### (3) Others

**Wednesday, February 13:** Mr. Akitaka Saiki, President of MEIJ, and Mr. Hasan Murat Mercan, Turkish Ambassador to Japan, attended a dialogue.



**Thursday, February 14:** Students from Tohoku Gakuin Middle School visited MEIJ office. MEIJ staff gave a lecture on the Middle East and importance of intercultural understanding, and introduced part of research fellows' job.



## **3. Others**

### (1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

**Wednesday, February 13:** Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani visited Japan and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe.