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MEIJ Monthly Report (January 2019)

1. MEIJ's Events

(1) Top Meetings

Japanese Diplomacy in 2019

- Date: Tuesday, January 29
- Venue: Hotel Okura Tokyo
- Speaker: Mr. Takeo Akiba, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Summary: Mr. Akiba explained the prospects of Japanese diplomacy in year 2019, including its cooperative relationships with neighboring states (China, Korea, and Russia), promotion of free trade, engagement with global issues, and peace and stability in the Middle East.



(2) Public Meeting

New Year's Reception with Middle Eastern Ambassadors to Japan

- Date: Thursday, January 31
- Venue: Palace Hotel Tokyo
- Summary: This New Year's Reception aimed at promoting communication between Middle Eastern Ambassadors to Japan and people with interests in the region. On behalf of the Ambassadors, H.E. Mr. Waleed Siam, the Palestinian Ambassador to Japan, gave a warm-hearted speech. The Reception was a meaningful opportunity in which more than 200 participants enjoyed their interactions with Ambassadors and embassy staff.



(3) Briefing on Current Middle East Situation

Israel's Expanding Ties with the Arab World

- Date: Thursday, January 24
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Mr. Jason Isaacson, AJC Associate Executive Director for Policy and Managing Director, Government and International Affairs
- Summary: Mr. Isaacson explained Israel's economic development, natural gas extraction projects, and desalination of the Dead Sea. Israeli-Arab relations have traditionally been informal. Today, however, Israel actively seeks to develop business, technology, and intelligence partnerships with countries such as Egypt, Oman, Bahrain, Morocco. Mr. Isaacson also referred to the US's role in Middle East peace and the menaces of Hezbollah and the Islamic State.



2. MEIJ's Activities

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

January 2019 Issue (Published on February 6)

1. Afghanistan: US-Taliban Peace Talks
2. Israel: US Warns Israel about China's Investment
3. Qatar: Shaikh Tamim Visits Japan
4. Saudi Arabia: Revealing 'National Industrial Development and Logistics Program'
5. Turkey: Summit with President Putin

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(2) *Middle East Analysis Report*

(Members only)

No. 7 "Situation of Syria's IDP and Prospects for Reconstruction" (Published on January 9, Available from January 15)

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(3) *Radical Islamists Monitor*

(Members only)

No. 18 "JNIM Attacks PLO Foothold" (January 22)

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(4) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

No. 98 "Iran: EU Agrees Upon New Sanctions on Iran" (January 11, Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo)

No. 99 "Syria: Rivalry Between Militant Factions Occupying Idlib" (January 11, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

No. 100 "Israel: Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko Visits Israel" (January 17, Research Fellow Kohei Nishidate)

No. 101 "Jordan: Cabinet Reform" (January 23, Nishidate)

No. 102 "Algeria: Presidential Election Day Revealed" (January 24, Research Fellow

Misa Kanaya)

*Refer to our website for details.

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

3. Others

(1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

Monday, January 28-Wednesday, January

30: Qatar's Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani visited Japan as Distinguished Official Guest Visiting for Business. On 29th, Shaikh Tamim met with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono, and on 30th, he met with the Emperor and the Crown Prince.