



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 (May 2018)

1. MEIJ's Events

(1) Top Meetings

The Future of Japan's Social Security System

- Date: Tuesday, May 29
- Venue: Hotel Okura Tokyo
- Speaker: Deputy Secretary of Health, Labor and Welfare Motomichi Kamohara
- Summary: Mr. Kamohara discussed the prospects of Japan's social security system from the standpoints of demographic change, challenges in welfare distribution, and career opportunities in medical welfare. He

elaborated on the Integrated Community Care System with various examples of community building projects.



(2) Seminars

Middle East Situation Viewed from Bahrain

- Date: Tuesday, May 22
- Venue: Tokyo Satellite Campus, Doshisha Univ.
- Speaker: MEIJ Vice President Kiyoshi Asako, Former Ambassador to Bahrain
- Summary: Mr. Asako gave an overview of Bahraini politics and internal security post-Arab Spring, its diplomacy with regional states, and relationship with the US and others.



2. MEIJ's Activities

(1) *Middle East Analysis Report*

(Members only)

No. R18-01 "Trump Administration's Middle East Strategy: US Military Involvement in the ME" (May 14, Cooperative Research Fellow Takuya Murakami) Since President Trump's inauguration, his "unpredictable" personality has significantly affected the administration's personnel affairs and policies. Air strikes on Syria ten days after indicating US troops' withdrawal from the country, and his declaration to leave the Iran nuclear deal are some examples. At the same time, Mr. Trump seems to have some ME strategy in his mind. This report clarifies Mr. Trump's ME strategy, especially on US military involvement, through analyzing different official statements and strategy documents.

No. R18-02 "Syria-North Korea Military Cooperation" (May 16, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka) North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons has become a critical issue to the world and to Japan. Syria has established a close cooperative relationship with North Korea, especially in WMD and ballistic missile developments. Thus, North Korea's WMD development is a security issue for the Middle East, and WMD development and usage in the ME is a security issue for Japan. This report analyzes the bilateral relationship between North Korea and Syria and the history of their military cooperation.

*Refer to our website for details.

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

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

May 2018 Issue (Published on June 1)

1. Iran: Reaction of JCPOA Member States to US Withdrawal
2. Saudi Arabia: Mediation of Yemen-UAE Conflict Over Socotra Island
3. Turkey: Expulsion of Israeli and US Ambassadors
4. Lebanon: Party Composition in the Parliament Decided

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(3) *Radical Islamists Monitor*

(Members only)

No. 3 "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb' Blackmails French and Western Companies" (May 9)

No. 4 "IS Claims Responsibility for Three Church Attacks in Indonesia" (May 14)

No. 5 "A Note on the Belgian Incident, Allegedly by Aamaq, Circulates" (May 31)

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(3) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

No. 10 "UAE: Prime Minister Abe's Visit" (May 1, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

No.11 "Kuwait: Relationship with the Philippines Grows Hostile Over the Treatment of Female Workers" (May 1, Takaoka)

No. 12 "Jordan, Israel & Palestine:

Meetings with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono (May 2, Research Fellow Kohei Nishidate)

No. 13 “Morocco & Iran: Morocco Severs Diplomatic Tie with Iran” (May 3, Research Fellow Misa Kanaya)

No. 14 “Lebanon: Parliamentary Elections” (May 8, Takaoka)

No. 15 “Israel & Palestine: Local Responses to Installation of the US Embassy Street Signs” (May 9, Nishidate)

No. 16 “Iran & the US: US Declares Withdrawal from Iran Nuclear Deal” (May 9, Nishidate)

No. 17 “Iraq: Parliamentary Elections” (May 14, Takaoka)

No. 18 “Israel & Palestine: International Reactions to the Transfer of the US Embassy to Jerusalem” (May 15, Nishidate)

No. 19 “UAE: Reforms for Investment Enticement” (May 21, Takaoka)

No. 20 “Tunisia: Tentative Results of the Municipal Elections” (May 21, Kanaya)

No. 21 “Iran & the US: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Issues the ‘12 Demands’” (May 22, Nishidate)

No. 22 “Syria: Assad’s Forces Siege Damascus and Its Vicinity” (May 23, Takaoka)

No. 23 “Palestine: Declares a State Party Referral to the ICC” (May 25, Nishidate)

No. 24 “Iran: Conditions for Iran to Remain in the Nuclear Deal” (May 25, Nishidate)

No. 25 “Syria: Self-Indulgent Claims by the IS Members” (May 30, Takaoka)

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3. Others

(1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

Thursday, May 7: Saudi Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Khalid A. al-Falih, CEO of Saudi Aramco, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Kono. Saudi side suggested to strengthen bilateral relations based on “Japan-Saudi Vision 2030” and to reinforce cooperation in various fields. They discussed prospects of cooperation in energy field, global oil situation, and projects taking place in Saudi Arabia.