



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 (November 2018)

1. MEIJ's Events

(1) Top Meetings

Meiji Restoration and the Present Day

- Date: Friday, November 16
- Venue: Hotel Okura Tokyo
- Speaker: Director of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Shin-ichi Kitaoka
- Summary: Mr. Kitaoka introduced the history of the studies on Meiji Restoration and characterized the Restoration as a rare historical case of a low-cost, yet successful mass-scale reform. He compared the Restoration with modern-day Japan's political process and pointed out the need for more essential debates and flexible system reforms.



(2) Special Seminars (Members Only)

Turkish Foreign Policies and the Recent Development in the Middle East

- Date: Monday, November 5
- Venue: Palace Hotel Tokyo
- Speaker: Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Foreign Minister of Turkey
- Summary: Mr. Çavuşoğlu discussed the difficult situation currently facing Turkey and explained that the Middle East region has reached a boiling point due to the Palestinian problem and Syrian situation. Stated that Turkey's stability and sustainable development as a regional power is the key to the Middle East's stabilization.



(3) Briefing on Current Middle East Situation (Members Only)

Iran and Japan: Promoting Friendship and Partnership

- Date: Tuesday, November 27
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: His Excellency Mr. Morteza Rahmani Movahaed, Iranian Ambassador to Japan
- Summary: After stating Iran's geopolitical importance, His Excellence explained the impacts of America-First policies, signified by the US withdrawal from the JCPOA and sanctions on Iran. He touched upon Iran-Japan relations and referred to Iran's expectations on and prospects of the bilateral relationship.



(4) Symposium on Current Middle East Situation

(Co-Hosted by the Kyodo News Service and MEIJ)

Complex Crisis in the Middle East: Turkey, Iran, Saudi and the US

- Date: Thursday, November 29
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Summary: The first half was a keynote speech titled "Complex Middle East Crisis and Trump" by Mr. Masayuki Yamauchi, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo. The latter half was a panel discussion by Professor Yamauchi, Mr. Masaharu Kono, Government Representative and Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace, Mr. Yasushi Fukuda, Senior Chief Researcher at IDE-JETRO, and Ms. Mari Nukui, Researcher at JIIA, moderated by Mr. Hiroki Sugita, Special Editor at Kyodo News Service.



(5) Other Seminars

Introduction to the Middle East (Vol. 21)

- Date: Friday, November 2
- Venue: Sapporo International Communication Plaza
- Speakers: Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka, Research Fellow Mayu Kaneko

- Summary: 1) "What is Happening in Turkey?" (Kaneko) After explaining Turkey's country features and geography, Kaneko described the aggravating Turkey-US relations which resulted in the continued depreciation of lira. Additionally, she explained Turkey's foreign policies vis-à-vis the EU and Russia and elaborated on the murder of the Saudi journalist. In the end she touched upon the commonalities and differences between Japanese and Turkish cultures and customs. 2) "Syrian Conflict, Immigrants, and Refugees" (Takaoka) The lecture centered around explanations of Syrian immigrants' and refugees' living conditions and attitudes. Takaoka also referred to Syrian immigrants/refugees residing in the EU and described the host states' refugee policies.



For a Better Understanding of the Middle East: Why Was the JCPOA Abandoned?

(Hosted by Meguro-ku Silver Daigaku-kai)

- Date: Thursday, November 15
- Venue: Nakameguro GT Plaza Hall
- Speaker: Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo
- Summary: Kondo provided basic information about Iran and Iran-US relations, and described the reasons and implications of US withdrawal from the JCPOA. She also referred to the current conditions of the Middle East region.

2. MEIJ's Activities

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

November 2018 Issue (Published on December 3)

1. Iran: SPV Establishment Goes Through a Rough Path
2. Syria: Chemical Attacks on Aleppo
3. Turkey: Provision of Voice Data Related to Khashoggi Murder Case
4. Jordan: Debates on the Modified Income Tax Bill
5. Libya: Palermo Conference Stipulates Postponement of Elections

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(2) *Radical Islamists Monitor*

(Members only)

No. 15 "IS Publication Discusses Attack on Egyptian Copts" (November 9)

No. 16 "IS Depends on Copycats" (November 21)

*Refer to our website for details.

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

(3) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

No. 78 "Iran: Appointment of New Cabinet Members and Formation of Economic Panel" (November 1, Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo)

No.79 "Qatar: Cabinet Reform" (November

6, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

No. 80 “Iran: Second Stage of US Sanctions Begins” (November 6, Kondo)

No. 81 “Israel & Palestine: Draft of a Ceasefire Agreement” (November 6, Research Fellow Kohei Nishidate)

No. 82 “Tunisia: Cabinet Reform (Fourth Shahid Administration)” (November 7, Research Fellow Misa Kanaya)

No. 83 “Israel & Palestine: Palestinian Factions React to Israeli Offensive” (November 13, Nishidate)

No. 84 “Syria: Contrasting Approaches Towards Reconstruction” (November 13, Takaoka)

No. 85 “Iran: US Sanctions on Iran and Japan” (November 14, Kondo)

No. 86 “Israel & Palestine: Defense Minister Liberman Resigns” (November 15, Nishidate)

No. 87 “Iraq: Attempts to Circumvent US Sanctions on Iran” (November 19, Takaoka)

No. 88 “Syria: Cabinet Reform” (November 28, Takaoka)

No. 89 “Afghanistan: Suicide Bombing in Kabul” (November 30, Radical Islamist Monitor Team)

*Refer to our website for details.

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

3. Others

(1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

Monday, November 5: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu arrived in Japan, gave a lecture at MEIJ, attended a press conference at Japan National Press Club, and participated in Japan-Turkey Foreign

Ministers’ meeting and working dinner.

Tuesday, November 6: Mr. Çavuşoğlu paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe.

Friday, November 23: During his visit to Rome for the Fourth Mediterranean, Foreign Minister Kono met with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif for a lunch meeting.

Sunday, November 25-Wednesday, November 28: Jordan’s King Abdullah II visited Japan with his wife, Queen Rania, as working visit guest. On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Kono had an audience with them and Prime Minister Abe attended a summit with the king.

Tuesday, November 27: Foreign Minister Kono and Jordan’s Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Kawar exchanged Notes Concerning Loan Aid for Jordan’s Autonomous and Sustainable Economic Development and signed Japan-Jordan Investment Agreement. King Abdullah II and Prime Minister Abe attended both ceremonies.

(2) Personnel Changes

November 26: Japanese Minister Counsellor to Turkey Yoichi Mikami