



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

MEIJ Monthly Report (October 2018)

1. MEIJ's Events

1) Top Meetings

Japanese Culture in the World

- Date: Monday, October 1
- Venue: Hotel Okura Tokyo
- Speaker: Mr. Hiroyasu Ando, Director of the Japan Foundation
- Summary: Mr. Ando Elaborated on the features of Japanese culture from the perspectives of the relationships between nature and humans and aesthetic sensibility. He explained about the efforts to disseminate Japanese culture and language to the world.



(2) Seminars

International Terrorism and Japan's Security Policies

- Date: Friday, October 12
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Mr. Eiji Yamamoto, Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime and Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs
- Summary: Although the IS is in decline and fewer terrorist attacks are reported, counterterrorism and organized-crime prevention constitute the most significant issue in Japan, especially regarding the upcoming 2020 Olympics. Mr. Yamamoto provided the latest situations of terrorism, several concerns regarding terrorism, and Japan's bilateral and multilateral counterterrorism measures. The lecture was held off-the-record.



Continued Depreciation of Lira: Its Background and Prospects

- Date: Wednesday, October 3
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Research Fellow Mayu Kaneko
- Summary: The continued depreciation of Turkish lira is related to the country's parliamentary and presidential elections and concentration of power to Erdogan. Aggravation of US-Turkey relations triggered the lira fall, which was caused by multiple factors – not only Erdogan's authoritarianism, but also Turkey's denial to hand over Pastor Branson to the US, tightening relations between Turkey and China, measures against the IS and the Kurds, and transfer of the US embassy to Jerusalem. Ms. Kaneko referred to Turkey's relationship with European countries and Russia regarding future prospects.



The Current Conditions and Prospects of the Syrian Conflict

- Date: Wednesday, October 3
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka
- Summary: Takaoka explained the changing power balance between the US, France, UK, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar on one side, and Syria, Iran, Russia on the other. Elaborated on the shifts of territorial control from 2016 to 2018. Some important issues are ways to connect major arterial roads with adjacent countries, implementation of reconstruction projects, and the level and speed of territorial seizure by the Syrian government.



2. MEIJ's Activities

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

October 2018 Issue (Published on November 1)

1. Afghanistan: Parliamentary Election Goes Through Rough Passage
2. Israel & Jordan: Discord Over Annexes to the 1994 Peace Treaty
3. Iraq: The Parliament Place Confidence on Some Cabinet Members

4. Saudi Arabia: Murder of a Journalist at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul

5. Turkey: Four-State Summit on Syrian Issue
*Refer to our website for details.

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

(2) *Radical Islamists Monitor*

(Members only)

No. 12 "Syria: 'Tahrir al-Sham' Delivers a Statement on Russia-Turkey Agreement"

(October 15)

No. 13 “Afghanistan: Taliban meets with US Delegation” (October 16)

No. 14 “Syria: Release of the Japanese Journalist (Visiting Research Fellow Ohno’s View)” (October 24)

*Refer to our website for details.
https://www.meij.or.jp/trend_analysis/monitor/

(3) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

No. 62 “Palestine: Leadership Reshuffling in Palestinian Islamic Jihad” (October 1, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

No. 63 “Israel & Palestine: Arab Israeli Congressman Organizes a General Strike” (October 4, Research Fellow Kohei Nishidate)

No. 64 “Libya: Hisham Ashmawy, Commander of a Radical Islamist Group, Detained” (October 9, Research Fellow Misa Kanaya)

No. 65 “Bahrain: Legal Reform to Entice Investments” (October 9, Takaoka)

No. 66 “Saudi Arabia: Jamal Khashoggi’s Disappearance” (October 11, Kanaya)

No. 67 “Turkey: Released Pastor Branson Returns to the US” (October 15, Research Fellow Mayu Kaneko)

No. 68 “Saudi Arabia: Jamal Khashoggi’s Disappearance Vol. 2” (October 15, Kanaya)

No. 69 “Jordan: Cabinet Reshuffle Under Prime Minister al-Razzaz” (October 16, Nishidate)

No. 70 “Saudi Arabia: Jamal Khashoggi’s Disappearance Vol. 3” (October 17)

No. 71 “Iran: US Sanctions on Iran Quietly Proceed Behind Khashoggi Case” (October

18, Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo)

No. 72 “Saudi Arabia: Jamal Khashoggi’s Disappearance Vol. 4” (October 22, Takaoka)

No. 73 “Iraq: Municipal Elections in the Kurdish District” (October 24, Takaoka)

No. 74 “Syria: Updates on Release of Mr. Junpei Yasuda” (October 24, Takaoka)

No. 75 “Syria: Mr. Junpei Yasuda’s Release and Ransom” (October 25, Takaoka)

No. 76 “Oman: Netanyahu’s Visit” (October 29, Takaoka)

No. 77 “UAE: Israel Attends an International Sport Event” (October 31, Takaoka)

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3. Others

(1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

Saturday, October 27: Foreign Minister Kono visited Manama, Bahrain, paid a courtesy call on Prince Salman and Deputy Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa, and met with Foreign Minister Khalid al-Khalifa.

Saturday, October 27: During his visit to Bahrain, Foreign Minister Kono met with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Ayman Safadi.