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## *MEIJ Monthly Report (September 2018)*

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

#### (1) Top Meetings

##### **On International Terrorism**

- Date: Wednesday, September 12
- Venue: Hotel Okura Tokyo
- Speaker: Commissioner General of the National Police Agency Shun-ichi Kurio
- Summary: Mr. Kurio Gave a lecture on the latest situation of international terrorist organizations, surrounding international conditions, and domestic anti-terrorism efforts.

#### (2) Seminars

##### **Reflecting on the Two Years and Nine Months in Iraq**

- Date: Friday, September 14
- Venue: Japan National Press Club
- Speaker: Director of the Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters Fumio Iwai, former Ambassador to Iraq
- Summary: Mr. Iwai gave a lecture on the reputation of the al-Abadi administration, Japan-Iraq relation, and Iraq's domestic security situation including the trends of terrorist attacks. He also explained his interactions with Iraqi citizens. The lecture was held off-the-record.

##### **The Fight Against Terrorism from a Moroccan Perspective and Experience**

- Date: Thursday, September 27
- Venue: Nippon Press Center
- Speaker: Assia BenSalah Alaoui, Ambassador at Large of His Majesty Mohamed VI
- Summary: Ms. Alaoui gave a lecture on Morocco's multi-layered anti-terrorism policies. Despite expansive political instability in the region following the Arab Spring, Morocco



has not experienced a terrorist incident. Moreover, the country has exposed relatively fewer terrorist-attack plans. Ms. Assia explained that Morocco's stability has been enabled by a combination of responsive security measures (ex. creation of the Central Bureau of the Judicial Investigation, border control, and surveillance system) and mid- and long-term policies which prevent the emergence of terrorists (education programs, de-radicalization programs, and international cooperation).

### (3) Special Seminar (Co-Hosted by The Yomiuri Shimbun and MEIJ)

#### Japan's Middle East Policy

- Date: Tuesday, September 18
- Venue: Nippon Press Center
- Speaker: Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Kono
- Summary: Since his inauguration in August 2017, Foreign Minister Kono has engaged in active diplomacy with the Middle Eastern states. Taking into consideration the significance on individual friendships with Middle Eastern dignitaries built during his study at Georgetown University, recent shifts in the region's socioeconomic conditions, and strengths of Japanese diplomacy, Mr. Kono revealed the "Kono Four Principles" (intellectual and human contribution; investment in people; enduring efforts; and enhancing political efforts). Mr. Kono elaborated on Japan's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East region and future challenges.



\*Refer to our website for the lecture details.

[https://www.meij.or.jp/trend\\_analysis/report/20180918.html](https://www.meij.or.jp/trend_analysis/report/20180918.html)

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

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

**September 2018 Issue** (Published on October 2)

1. Israel: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Issues a Document Regarding Diplomatic Goals for Year 2019
2. Iraq: The Parliament Elects a Speaker
3. Iran: Iran's Diplomacy at the 73th UN General Assembly
4. Tunisia: Schism in Nidaa Tounes Causes Political Instability

### 5. Turkey: President Erdogan Visits Germany

\*Refer to our website for details.

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

### (2) *Radical Islamists Monitor*

(Members only)

**No. 11 "Syria: Radical Islamists' Response to Russia-Turkey Agreement"** (September 25)

\*Refer to our website for details.

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

(3) *Middle East Analysis Report*

(Members only)

**No. 3 “Decline of the IS: An Analysis of Their Publications”** (September 11, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

**No. 4 “Where is the JCPOA Headed?”** (September 20, Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo)

(4) *CHUTO KAWARABAN*

**No. 55 “Palestine & Israel: Jerusalem Mayor Declares Halting of UNRWA Activities”** (September 4, Research Fellow Kohei Nishidate)

**No. 56 “Iraq: Protests in Basra Escalate”** (September 10, Chief Research Fellow Yutaka Takaoka)

**No. 57 “Syria: Latest Military Situation”** (September 11, Takaoka)

**No. 58 “Iran: The Third Iran, Turkey and Russia Summit”** (September 12, Research Fellow Momoyo Kondo)

**No. 59 “Syria: Russia-Turkey Agreement on Idlib”** (September 20, Takaoka)

**No. 60 “Algeria: Personnel Changes Interior and Military Officials”** (September 21, Research Fellow Misa Kanaya)

**No. 61 “Iran: Terrorist Attack on the Military Parade in Ahvaz”** (September 28, 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**

(1) Exchange Visits of Dignitaries

**Monday, September 24:** During his visit to New York for attending the UN General

Assembly, Prime Minister Abe met with Turkey’s Prime Minister Erdogan.

**Monday, September 24:** During his visit to New York for attending the UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister Kono met with Turkish counterpart Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.

**Tuesday, September 25:** During his visit to New York for attending the UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister Kono met with Jordan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ayman al-Safadi.

**Wednesday, September 26:** During his visit to New York for attending the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe attended the Japan-Iran Summit with President Rouhani.

**Wednesday, September 26:** During his visit to New York for attending the UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister Kono attended the EU-hosted high-level meeting on the Syrian crisis.