

## Japan-Lebanon Round Table for Middle Eastern Studies (No.1)

### ***The Middle East in the Midst of Political Cataclysm***

A century after the outbreak of World War I, we are observing the melt-down of borders established in the Sykes–Picot Agreement. Multiple players in the Syrian Civil War are compelling international powers to intervene at various levels, resulting in serious sectarian resonance in Iraq. Undoubtedly, in retrospect, the Iraq War of 2003 directly created this devastating result and the emergence of the “Islamic State” in the two countries, which had a global impact on many countries, from the US to Australia (and Japan). However, the glimpses of ancient social grievances in the two countries as well as in neighboring nations lead us to reconsider the current situation over longer timespans and wider ranges. The issues in and around the Middle East are all interwoven one another. The exchange of ideas among leading researchers from Japan and Lebanon will elucidate this issue from diverse viewpoints, which may help to gain a better perspective on the future of the Middle East.

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2014

Venue: Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, A2-1, Azariyeh Bldg., Beirut Central District

Phone 01-975851

Program:

14:00-14:10 Welcome Remarks by *Hidemitsu Kuroki* (JaCMES)

14:10-14:30 Presentation 1 by *Massoud Daher* (Lebanese University)

14:30-14:50 Presentation 2 by *Keiko Sakai* (Chiba University)

14:50-15:10 Presentation 3 by *Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck* (Carnegie Middle East Center)

15:10-15:30 Q & A

15:30-15:50 Break

15:50-16:10 Presentation 4 by *Akira Usuki* (Japan Women's University)

16:10-16:30 Presentation 5 by *Hilal Khashan* (American University of Beirut)

16:30-16:50 Presentation 6 by *Yasuyuki Matsunaga* (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

16:50-17:10 Q & A

17:10-17:30 Break

17:30-18:30 Discussion

Chair: *Hidemitsu Kuroki*

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## Panelists

**Massoud Daher** is a professor at Lebanese University. He specializes in Modern History of the Middle East and Japan. His publication includes *Modern History of Japan, 1853-1945: The Challenge and Resonance* (in Arabic), Abu Dhabi, 2009.

**Keiko Sakai** is a professor at Faculty of Law, Politics and Economics, Chiba University. She specializes in the international politics of the Middle East and the modern history of Iraq. Her publication includes *Middle East Politics* (in Japanese), Tokyo, 2012

**Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck** is a research analyst at the Carnegie Middle East Center. She specializes in political violence and Islamism, with a focus on Algeria. Her publication includes "The Decline of Islamist Parties in Algeria" (Sada).

[http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/index.cfm?fa=show&article=54510&solr\\_hilite=Algeria](http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/index.cfm?fa=show&article=54510&solr_hilite=Algeria)

**Akira Usuki** is a professor at Faculty of Humanities, Japan Women's University. He specializes in the modern history of Palestine/Israel and of Islam in Japan. His publication includes *Palestine Question in the World History* (in Japanese), Tokyo, 2013.

**Hilal Khashan** is a professor at the American University of Beirut. He specializes in the Comparative Politics of the Middle East. His publications include five books and more than 85 articles in internationally refereed journals.

**Yasuyuki Matsunaga** is a professor of political science at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. He specializes in politics and religion in postrevolutionary Iran. He is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Reforming Islamist Iran: Religion, Intellectuals, and Politics during the Rafsanjani-Khatami Years*.

**Hidemitsu Kuroki** is a professor at Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, and Head of JaCMES. He specializes in the history of Ottoman Syria. His publication includes *The Influence of Human Mobility in Muslim Societies*, London, Kegan Paul, 2003.