



An Intellectual Dialogue Between Japan and the Middle East: In Search of Shared Experiences

—Prospectus—

Organized by: Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)
Supported by: Japan Foundation

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Japan Center for International Exchange

The Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), founded in 1970, is an independent, nonprofit, and nonpartisan organization dedicated to strengthening Japan's role in international networks of policy dialogue and cooperation by conducting international and cross-sectoral programs of research, exchange, and dialogue. JCIE creates opportunities for informed policy discussions; it does not take policy positions. JCIE's activities are organized into three interrelated and mutually reinforcing programs: 1) Global ThinkNet to promote policy study and dialogue, 2) CivilNet to strengthen and promote civil society activities, and 3) Political Exchange Programs to promote networks among policymakers. Currently, two key areas of focus in JCIE's activities are East Asia community building and human security issues.

(URL: www.jcie.or.jp)

Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 as a special legal entity to undertake international cultural exchange. It subsequently became an independent administrative institution in October 2003. The purpose of the Japan Foundation is to contribute to a better international environment and to the maintenance and development of harmonious foreign relationships with Japan through deepening other nations' understanding of Japan, promoting better mutual understanding among nations, encouraging friendship and goodwill among the peoples of the world, and contributing to the world in culture and other fields through the efficient and comprehensive implementation of international cultural exchange activities. The Japan Foundation carries out its programs and activities in the following three major categories: 1) Arts and Cultural Exchange, 2) Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and 3) Japanese Studies Overseas and Intellectual Exchange.

(URL: www.jpf.go.jp)

The Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), with funding from the Japan Foundation, will conduct a dialogue project on June 3–9, 2007, to meet with Turkish, Israeli, and Palestinian opinion leaders with the goals of deepening mutual understanding on issues of common concern and exploring potential areas for cooperation.

Following a call by Prime Minister Koizumi for enhanced dialogue between Japan and the Middle East, which was made during his May 2003 visit to the region, Japanese organizations have responded with a number of initiatives, including the Japan-Arab Dialogue Forums, missions to promote private-sector dialogue between Japan and the Middle East, and public symposia in various countries of the region to promote dialogue with opinion leaders. The upcoming visit will build upon those activities and will aim to encourage a still higher degree of mutual understanding and cooperation. JCIE will work in cooperation with the Japan Foundation and organizations in the relevant countries to conduct this project.

Based on an agreed upon framework for the discussions, the delegation members listed here will conduct dialogues with opinion leaders on the main themes of “Japan and Turkey in the World: Tradition and Reform” and “Japanese, Israelis, and Palestinians in the World.” In addition to holding public symposia, the group will also carry out site visits to deepen their understanding of each location they visit.

At the end of April 2007, Prime Minister Abe visited five Middle East countries—Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, and Egypt—to promote comprehensive development. Given that this Intellectual Dialogue between Japan and the Middle East will occur shortly after the prime minister's trip, it is hoped that it will not only facilitate bilateral relations, but will also serve as an important key in the search for ways to deepen our understanding of the world and of the situation in each region based on historical and cultural backgrounds, and for ways to encourage cooperative relations between our peoples.

MEMBERS



Masayuki YAMAUCHI, PhD

*Professor, History of International Relations and Islamic Area Studies
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo*

A graduate of Hokkaido University (Asian history), Dr. Yamauchi received his PhD in area studies from the University of Tokyo. He is a member of the Prime Minister Abe's "Planning Committee of the Beautiful Country and a Safe Society." He has recently served on a number of government advisory councils, including the Task Force for Foreign Affairs, the Japan-Arab Dialogue Forum, the Collaborative Support Committee for Joint Japan-Korea History Research Development Promotion, the Study Group on Islamic Affairs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and the Oil Subcommittee of the General Energy Council (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry). He has been a visiting associate professor at Cairo University, a visiting research fellow at the Turkish Historical Society, and a visiting scholar at Harvard University. He has received many awards for his work, including the Yoshino Sakuzo Prize, the Suntory Prize for Social Sciences and the Humanities, the Shiba Ryotaro Prize, and the Mainichi Publication Prize. He is the author of numerous books and articles, the most recent of which include *Teikoku to kokumin* (Empire and nation, Iwanami 2004) and *Rekishi no naka no Iraku senso* (The Iraq War in history, NTT Publication 2004).



Shinichi KITAOKA, PhD

*Professor, Political Science
Graduate School of Law and Politics, University of Tokyo*

Ambassador Shinichi Kitaoka was appointed deputy permanent representative of Japan to the United Nations in 2004 and served in that post through the autumn of 2006, at which time he returned to the University of Tokyo. After receiving a PhD from the University of Tokyo in 1976, he began his academic career as a lecturer at Rikkyo University, where he became a full professor in 1985. In 1997, he moved on to a professorship in modern Japanese politics and diplomacy at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Law and Politics. Dr. Kitaoka has served as a member of the advisory panel to Prime Minister Miyazawa on "Japan and Asia Pacific in the 21st Century" (1992), as a member of Prime Minister Obuchi's Commission on "Japan's Goals in the 21st Century" (1999), and as a member of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Task Force on Foreign Affairs (2001–2004). He has received many awards and honors, including the Yoshino Sakuzo Prize, the Suntory Prize for Liberal Arts, the Yoshida Shigeru Prize, and the Yomiuri Prize as the Opinion Leader of the Year. His publications include Dokuritsu jison: *Fukuzawa Yukichi no chosen* (Pride and self-dependence: the challenge of Fukuzawa Yukichi, Kodansha 2002) and *Futsu no Kuni e* (Toward a "normal country," Chuo koron-shinsha 2000).



Atsuko TOYAMA

*President, New National Theatre, Tokyo
Former Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology*

A graduate of the Department of Law of the University of Tokyo, Ms. Toyama began her career as an official in the Ministry of Education in 1962. She served in various posts within the Ministry and Agency for Cultural Affairs, including director of the Junior High School Education Division (1982), director of the Planning Division of the Higher Education Bureau (1985), deputy commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (1989), director-general of the Local Education Support Bureau (1991), director-general of the Higher Education Bureau (1992), and commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (1994). From 1996 to 1999 she was the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Turkey. Following her return to Japan, she was appointed director of the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo in April 2000. Before taking her current position in 2005, Ms. Toyama served as Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in the Koizumi Cabinet from 2001 to 2003. Recently, she has been engaged in wide range of activities, serving on councils of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as president of the Toyota Foundation, and as president of the Matsushita Education

Foundation. Her publications include *Schools and Universities Will Change Like This* (Kodansha 2004) and *Turkey—At the Crossroads of the Century* (NHK-BOOKS 2001; translated into Turkish in 2004).

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS' MEMBERS

Junichi CHANO

*Managing Director, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Department
Japan Foundation*

After graduating from Doshisha University in 1982, Mr. Chano joined the Japan Foundation, a Japanese independent administrative institution that operates international cultural exchange programs under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He initially served as deputy director of the Bangkok Office and then assistant director of the Japanese Language Division at the Foundation's Tokyo headquarters. From 1993 to 1995, he studied at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and earned a Master's degree in governmental administration. Subsequently, he became director of the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) in New York, overseeing the administration of US\$20 million in grant programs promoting Japan-US policy-oriented research and dialogue projects. Upon his return to Tokyo in 1999, he served as director of the Regional Coordination Division of the Japan Foundation, then deputy executive director of CGP until he assumed his present post in 2007. Mr. Chano also serves as an adjunct lecturer at the Faculty of Law of Doshisha University.

Akiko Fukushima, PhD

*Senior Fellow
Japan Foundation*

Dr. Akiko Fukushima is a senior fellow of the Japan Foundation. She was director of policy studies at the National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA) in 1994–2006. She is also adjunct professor at the Law School of Keio University, and was a visiting professor at University of Kuwait (2004) and University of British Columbia (2002–2003). She is a member of the Defense Ministry's Council on Defense Facilities. She received her MA in international economy and international relations from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University in 1994, and her PhD in international public policy from Osaka University in 1997. Her publications include *Japanese Foreign Policy: The Emerging Logic of Multilateralism* (MacMillan 1999) and *A Lexicon of Asia Pacific Security Dialogue* (Keizai Hyoronsha 2003).

Hideko KATSUMATA

*Managing Director and Executive Secretary
Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)*

After graduating from the University of the Sacred Heart, Ms. Katsumata joined JCIE in 1969. She became executive secretary in 1985 and managing director in 2003. She served as a member of the Advisory Council on Public Interest Corporation Reform of the Prime Minister's Office (2003–2004), Asahi Newspaper Review Committee (2005–2007), vice chair of the NHK Advisory Council on International Broadcasting (2000–2006). Currently, Ms. Katsumata serves as a board member of the Sacred Heart School Corporation in Japan and of the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, and a steering committee member of the Tokyo Voluntary Action Center. She has also recently been appointed an external director of the Chubu Electric Power Company. Her publications include "The Roots of Japanese Philanthropy: Its Origins and Impact on U.S.-Japan Relations" (in *Philanthropy and Reconciliation*, JCIE 2006) and "Current State and Challenges of NGOs in Asia."