



CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN
ISTANBUL



Doshisha University
Graduate School of Global Studies



Graduate School of Global Studies and CISMOR (Center for Study of Monotheistic Religions) ,
Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan
will hold

International Conference on Conflict Prevention in the Middle East: Searching for Alternative Ways

November 8-9, 2012
at the Former Building of Consulate General of Japan, Istanbul, Turkey

The objective of this conference is to search for alternative ways and new perspectives for how to mitigate conflicts in the Middle East. This conference is organized in order to present the outcome of the three year project, entitled “Conflict Prevention in the Middle East: Constructing a Multi disciplinary Study,” (April 2010 to March 2013) sponsored by Japan’s Ministry of Science and Education. The conference is jointly organized by Consulate General of Japan in Istanbul,, Turkey and Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan.

There have been a series of conflicts and wars since the 20th century in the Middle East. Protracted conflicts in Palestine and Afghanistan have continued until today. The on-going processes of democratization in the region have witnessed a new phase since Arab’s Revolt (or Spring). Authoritarian regimes have been challenged by popular and grass-root movements that have been often influenced by external forces inside and outside the region. Constitutional reforms have been under way in many states in the Middle East in their attempts to provide more open space for citizens’ participation in politics, and socio-economic activities. The re-insurgency of militant groups in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan has shown the significance of the more inclusive political, social and economic systems. Nuclear impasse in Iran has been one of the detrimental factors for the regional security and stability. The papers in this conference will shed light on the following themes that correspond to the four sessions: 1) Human Security in Protracted Conflicts: Palestine and Afghanistan, 2) The Role of Non-state Actors in Conflict Mitigation toward the More Inclusive Systems, 3) Security in the Gulf, 4) Preventing the Spillover of Conflicts.

Thursday, 8 November

13:00-13:30(30) Opening Speech

by Mr. Keiji Fukuda, Consul General of Japan in Istanbul, Turkey

by Hisae Nakanishi, Project Leader, Professor of Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University

by Suat Kınıkoğlu, ex-Central Executive Committee Member, Justice and Development Party

13:30-14:00(30) Keynote Speech

- Open Civilization: Towards a New Diversity Management Strategy

by Recep Senturk, Director General and Dean of Graduate Studies, Fatih Sultan Mehmet University

14:00- 14:40(40) Session 1 *Human Security in Protracted Conflicts: Palestine and Afghanistan*

Chair: Elisa Montiel-Welti, JSPS Scholar, Doshisha University

- Challenges of the Reconstruction in Afghanistan

by Ahmet Han, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Kadir Has University

- Dilemma of Security Sector Reform in Afghanistan; lessons for Post-Arab Spring

by Kenji Isezaki, Director of Peace and Conflict Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

14:40-15:00(20) Coffee Break

15:00- 16:00(60) Session 1 Continued

- The Islamists and the Arab-Israeli conflict in the aftermath of the Arab Spring

By Azzam Tamimi, Director of the Institute of Islamic Thought

- The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, and the Arab Spring

by Phillip Amour, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Fatih University

- Deterioration of Turkish-Israeli Relations: An alternative account of the recent tensions

by Özlem Demirtaş Bagdonas, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Fatih University

16:00-17:00(60) Session 1 Discussion

Discussant: Savaş Genç, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Fatih University

Friday, 9 November

9:00-9:30(30) Keynote speech

- Security and Development Nexus in the Emerging New Middle East

by Norman Cook , Former Executive Policy Director in Charge of the Middle East and Africa/
Advisor to the Project “Conflict Prevention in the Middle East”

9:30-10:30(60) Session 2 Preventing the Spillover of Conflicts

Chair: Hisae Nakanishi, Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University

- Conflict in Syria and Its Regional Impact

by Ozlem Tur, Middle East Technical University

- Iran’s Security Policy in the Region: Special Focus on Syria

by Abuomohammad Asgarkhani, Director of the Center for Graduate International Studies, University of Tehran

- Russia’s Position towards Syria

by Azuolas Bagdonas, Department of International Relations, Fatih University

10:30-10:45(15) Coffee Break

10:45-12:15(90) Session 2 Continued & Discussion

- Challenges of the Protection of Palestine Refugees

by Yoshiyuki Kitazawa, Professor, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Department of International Relations, Kyoto Sangyo University

- Perpetuating tensions between the conflict zone and Europe:

Reversed Gender Bias of Afghan Unaccompanied Children in the EU

by Elisa Montiel-Welti, JSPS Scholar, Doshisha University

Discussant: Prof. Masanori Naito, Dean of the Graduate School of Global Studies, Vice Director of CISMOR, Doshisha University

by Mert Gökırmak, Assistant Professor of Economics & Administrative Science Uludag University

12:15-13:30(75) Lunch Break

13:30-14:30(60) Session 3 Security in the Gulf

Chair: Abuomohammad Asgarkhani, Director of the Center for Graduate International Studies, University of Tehran

- Human Rights and Security Sector Reforms in Saudi Arabia

by Satoru Nakamura, Associate Professor of Kobe University

- Nuclear Impasse of Iran and Its Impact on the Gulf Security

by Hisae Nakanishi, Professor, Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University

- Security in the Gulf

by Nurşin Ateşoğlu Güney, Professor of Department of International Relations, Yıldız Technical University

14:30-15:15(45) Session 3 Discussion

Discussant: Phillip Amour, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Fatih University

15:15-15:30(15) Coffee Break

15:30-16:30(60) Session 4 *The Role of Non-state Actors in Conflict Mitigation toward the More Inclusive Systems*

Chair: Azzam Tamimi, Director of the Institute of Islamic Thought

- Social Services and "Resistance Society" of Lebanon's Hizballah

by Kota Suechika, Associate Professor of College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University

- Muslim Civil Society: A New Agency of Assistance?

The Humanitarian and Development Role of Turkish NGO IHH in Gaza, Palestine

by Iyas Salim, Graduate Student, Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University

- Efforts of Civil Society in the Middle East and Africa

by Oguzhan Tekin, Graduate Student, Department of International Relations, Fatih University

16:30-17:15(45) Session 4 Discussion

Discussant: Michaelangelo Guida, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Fatih University

17:15-17:30(15) Summary

by Hisae Nakanishi, Project Leader of "the Conflict Prevention in the Middle East", Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University

17:30-17:40(10) Closing Remarks

by Masanori Naito, Dean of the Graduate School of Global Studies, Vice Director of CISMOR, Doshisha University