

PRESS RELEASE November 8, 2013

No. 977

Leading Journalists to come to Japan from Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco

International Symposium

**“North Africa and Japan in the 21 Century: Creating the Society of Peace and
Coexistence through International Cultural Exchange”**

November 20, 2013 at Liberty Hall, Meiji University Tokyo

The Japan Foundation and the Institute for Disarmament and Peace Studies at Meiji University will co-host an International Symposium “North Africa and Japan in the 21 Century: Creating the Society of Peace and Coexistence through International Cultural Exchange” on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at the Liberty Hall in Meiji University. At the symposium, Japanese and North African key figures will discuss the possible role of Cultural and Intellectual Exchange.

In recent years, political climate in Arab world including North Africa has drastically changed and has impacted on the society on so many levels. The information we receive from the news coverage in Japan is mainly about the issues on politics and economy. North Africa is promising place for Japanese enterprise to advance its business, however every time when foreign people are targeted by the terrorist attack, we cannot remove the possibility of misunderstanding of the areas and hampering the deepening of the mutual understanding.

Under the circumstances, it is important for us to hear directly from the people what the ordinary citizens are feeling and how they see Japan. At the Symposium, the panelists will deliver their opinions on the possible role of cultural and civil exchange in order to realize multidimensional mutual understanding and empathy.

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 Time: 15:00-19:00 (Door Open: 14:45)

Venue: Liberty Hall, Meiji University (1-1 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo)

Directions: 5 min. walk from Ochanomizu Station (Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line), Shin Ochanomizu station (Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line), Jinbocho station (Toei Mita Line)

Organizer: The Japan Foundation, The Institute for Disarmament and Peace Studies at Meiji University

Supporter: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Language: Japanese/English (Simultaneous Interpretation available)

Admission: Free (advance registration required)

For Registration: Please send the name, organization/company and contact details in the text with “North Africa International Symposium” in the subject line to north_africa_symposium@hotmail.com by Monday, November 18, 2013. (The above contact is an email address for the office in Meiji University. We will not use personal information for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was collected.)

[Contact] Europe, Middle East and Africa Section, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Dept.

Point of Contact: Sone Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6071

PRESS RELEASE November 8, 2013

No. 977 P2

International Symposium “North Africa and Japan in the 21 Century - Creating the Society of Peace and Coexistence through International Cultural Exchange”

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013
Time: 15:00-19:00 (Door Open: 14:45)
Venue: Liberty Hall, Meiji University
Language: Japanese/English (Simultaneous Interpretation available)

Program Schedule

14:45	Registration
15:00 – 15:05	Opening Speech: Welcome/Greetings from Organizer
15:05 – 15:25	Key Note Speech: “Creating the Society of Peace and Coexistence through International Cultural Exchange, from the stand point of Algeria Hostage Crisis in In Amenas” (Makoto Katsumata)
15:25 – 16:55	Session1: “Rethink the Presence of North Africa in Japan and how it is seen”
16:55 – 17:15	Break
17:15 – 18:55	Session2: “To Increase Awareness of Japanese Culture and the Sense of Value in North Africa” (Moderator: Keiko Takaki)
18:55 – 19:00	Closing Speech

Panelists (North Africa)

- Abdulbaset Mohamed Ben Geth (Libiya, International News Repoter, Libya’s State News Agency “LANA”, International News Dept.)
- Mohamed Ait Lachger (Morocco, Principal Editor in Chief, SNRT public television)
- Tarek Chehidi (Tunisia, Coordinator, ADEA Secretariat, African Development Bank)
- Noura Kort (Tunisia, Radio host and coordinator at Radio Tunis Chaîne Internationale (RTCI))
- Smail Debeche (Algeria, Professor, University of Algiers III)

Panelists (Japan)

- Makoto Katsumata (Professor, Meiji Gakuin University, Director, International Peace Research Institute, Meiji Gakuin University)
- Kunio Fukuda (Professor, Meiji University, Director, The Institute for Disarmament and Peace Studies at Meiji University)
- Hiroshi Fuse (Journalist, Editorial Writer at The Mainichi Newspapers, Editor in Chief at quarterly journal “Arab”)
- Keiko Takaki (Professor, J. F. Oberlin University)
- Yuichi Kasuya (Professor, Kanazawa University)

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