



Middle East studies in Japan have progressed well to this day, but not all has been favorable. This spring, the Middle East has again become the war zone and military aggression has been made against Iraq. We, being very familiar with the Middle East, are truly concerned with the gravity of the situation not only as area specialists but also as fellow humans. I see one of the reasons behind the tragic situation being the emergence of an ill globalism.

To make global society truly coexistent, the productive development of globalization and various areas of the world must come harmoniously. I believe that one of the purposes of area studies is the pursuit of such an ideal. Yet if globalism means to meet some “ universal standard ”, the coexistence with distinctive areas of the world will not be easy. While globalization is an inevitable course of history, ill sides of globalism may not be its inevitable components. An alternative must be offered from an area studies standpoint. This means that the role area studies plays has become a very significant one.

An association such as JAMES has its responsibility as an academic association. This year, for example, we plan our annual lectures to take up themes that will be useful to high school world history education and through such public activities, I hope that we as a whole, can contribute to the true understanding of the Middle East.

## **The 20th Annual Meeting of JAMES**

Place: Meiji University, Surugadai Campus (Tokyo)

Schedule: May 8th (Sat), Open Lecture commemorating Edward W. Said, and Music Performance

May 9th (Sun), Paper presentations

[Organizing Committee]

Chair: NAGATA Yuzo (Professor, Meiji University)

Secretary General: FUKUDA Kunio (Professor, Meiji University)

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## **The 7th JAMES Open Lecture: “Islam in World History”**

**IIZUKA Masato**

(Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, ILCAA)

November 1, 2003, at Hitotsubashi Memorial Hall, Tokyo.

Lecturers:

KATO Hiroshi ( Hitotsubashi University, Graduate School of Economics )

“Islam as a Civilization: Religion and Economy”

MASUYA Tomoko ( The University of Tokyo, Institute of Oriental Culture )

”Japan and Islamic Art”

KURITA Yoshiko ( Chiba University, Faculty of Letters )

“Imperialism and the Islamic World”

Chair: IIZUKA Masato ( Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, ILCAA )

Taking into account that from this year, high schools started using textbooks based on the new teaching guidelines which places the Islamic world as equal a cultural sphere as Europe and East Asia in world history, three experts gave lectures on the past role and present day meaning of society and economy, culture, politics and philosophy of the Islamic world.

Publicity was emphasized on high school teachers for this particular lecture, and proved successful, for many participants were from the field of education. This was apparent in questions asked at the question-and-answer held after the lecture, such as what would be sufficient for teaching Islamic history or how would it be made easier to understand the Palestinian Issue is not a religious dispute? Other difficulties raised were from a high school questionnaire where many students responded to the image of Islam as “restrained and restricted”, could be because textbooks refer to Islam as “a strict monotheistic religion”.

## **The 12th KAMES Annual Meeting**

**KOSUGI Yasushi** (Kyoto University)

Held from October 17 to 19, 2003, at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea.

I was given the opportunity to fully attend the KAMES (Korea Association for Middle East Studies) annual meeting as a JAMES representative. Middle East Studies Associations of Korea, China, Japan which form AFMA (Asian Federation of Middle East Studies Associations) have both invited and visited each others' annual meetings in the past, and for this meeting, three members from Japan, I, KOSUGI Yasushi, OKAMOTO Kumiko from Osaka, Michael PENN from Fukuoka, were invited to Seoul as part of the exchange policy of AFMA.

This is the second visit to Korea. My previous visit was the Dankook University meeting held in Cheonan in 1996. This year, the meeting was held at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul. KAMES holds its annual meeting in the form of an international conference and for this 12th annual meeting the main theme was "Middle East in World Order after the Iraq War." The meeting was composed of several panels in correspondence with the main theme, and others concerning linguistics and literature. My presentation was on the present situation and philosophy of moderate-groups in the Islamic World given at Session 1, PENN on the relationship between Japan and the Islamic World at Session 2, OKAMOTO on the stories of the Thousand and One Nights at Session 5.

Troop deployment to Iraq was also an issue in Korea, and international relation affairs between the United States and the Middle East was at the height of political debate. This reflected on the atmosphere of the participants, making topics such as the war on Iraq, Middle East reform after the war, relation with the world system and Islamic politic analysis, subjects of heated discussions at the meeting as well. The reports and presentations by all members were of great interest, making this a note worthy visit.

## **The 37th MESA Annual Meeting**

November 6 - 9, 2003, in Anchorage, Alaska, USA.

For this annual meeting, panels "The View from the East" and "Surveying Middle East Studies: Towards a Global Perspective" were planned and I was called upon to attend the meeting. The decision of the JAMES Board for this meeting was to promote Middle East studies in Japan worldwide and construct a multidimensional research network connecting the regions of East Asia, Europe and America, Middle East, by giving presentations at these panels and assembling a joint panel by researchers of Japan and the

United States titled “Crossing Boundaries” (Organized by OHTSUKA Kazuo). This program “Middle East Studies in Japan in the 21 Century World” was accepted by the Japan Foundation as its Middle East exchange program and was financially supported to dispatch six JAMES members to the MESA meeting in Anchorage. ( MIURA Toru, Ochanomizu University )

**PANEL :**

**The View from the East: Middle East Library Collections in East, South, and Australasia**

November 6 (Thurs), 14:00-17:30

<Australia/New Zealand> Mahboubeh Kamalpour (Cataloguing Librarian, University of Melbourne)

<China> Cheng Hong ( Director, Library and Documentation Center, Institute of West Asian and African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences )

<India> Omar Khalidi (Librarian, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

<Indonesia> Labibah Zain (Ph.D. Candidate, McGill University, Former Head Librarian, IAIN Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University )

<Japan> MIURA Toru (Professor, Ochanomizu University)

<Korea> Byoung Joo Hah (Professor, Pusan University of Foreign Studies)

**Chair’s Report on the MELA Panel: The View from the East**

**M. Lesley Wilkins** (Bibliographer for Law of the Islamic World, Harvard Law School Library, Vice-President of Middle East Librarians Association)

The Middle East Librarians’ Association (MELA) met at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, on 6 November 2003, in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association of North America. A business session in the morning and a luncheon preceded the program portion of the meeting in the afternoon, which was moderated by Vice President/Program Chair Lesley Wilkins. The program drew some non-librarians and non-MELA members as its focus harmonized with the overall conference theme of “Crossing Boundaries.” It featured six speakers who described Middle East library

collections and services in East, South, and Austral-Asia. Prior to introducing the speakers, Ms. Wilkins acknowledged the help and advice she had received in organizing the program and offered special thanks to Professor MIURA, who had facilitated contact with other Middle East studies associations in Asia.

The guidelines for the program invited each speaker to give a brief history of Middle East studies in his or her country, mentioning major institutions, journals, and directories as well as major collections of Middle East research materials in the libraries of universities or other institutions. For each collection or facility, the speaker was asked to provide, if possible, information on the size, growth rate and formats of the collection(s); their linguistic range and subject scope, including any special material; the sources and methods of acquisition; their bibliographic organization and membership in union catalogs, consortia, or networks; services available to researchers on site or at a distance; their staff composition, organization, and training; and, finally, the categories of users.

The first presentation was by Mahboubeh Kamalpour of the University of Melbourne Library, who presented the results of her survey of libraries in Australia and New Zealand with Middle Eastern holdings and showed slides of her institution. Next, Cheng Hong, Director of the Library at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of West Asian and African Studies, profiled Middle Eastern collections and area studies materials published in her country. The following speaker, Omar Khalidi, who is Bibliographer for the Aga Khan Program in Islamic Art and Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), highlighted major collections of Arabic and Persian manuscripts in his native India and spoke of how they are seen as an integral to the culture of South Asia rather than exemplifying that of a remote region, as is more typically the case with area studies materials.

The fourth speaker was Labibah Zain, a student at McGill University and formerly a librarian at the IAIN Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University, who described the library situation and growth of collections in Indonesia. Then, Professor MIURA Toru of Ochanomizu University presented a very thorough survey of Middle Eastern studies collections in Japanese libraries and a demonstration of their new online union catalog with Arabic script capabilities. The final speaker was Professor Byoung Joo Hah of the Department of Arabic at Pusan University of Foreign Studies, who discussed conditions in those Korean libraries with collections on the Middle East.

The speakers shared many useful bibliographies and handouts with the audience.

These will be published, along with the full text of their papers, in one or two future issues of MELA Notes. There was general agreement that the program had brought to light much previously unknown information about scholarly research resources in the eastern hemisphere, expanded the knowledge of all participants, and provided a unique opportunity for Middle East librarians from three continents to become acquainted with each other and to forge new professional links.

### **JAMES Member's Report**

**MIURA Toru**

(Ochanomizu University )

This panel was planned by the Middle East Librarians Association. Members from each of the Middle East Studies of Japan, China and Korea attended as representatives and reports from experts from Indonesia, Australia and India were presented.

The hosting committee had instructed the panel presenters to report on the background of Middle East studies and the material available in each country. Australia reported that 8 universities including the University of Melbourne are engaged in Middle East related education and research. The materials available and application of these were introduced through the results of a survey taken by the universities. Australasian Middle East Studies Association (AMESA) was founded in 1981 but due to financial problems it was closed down in 2001. China reported mainly on the journal material (Chinese/English) in institutions such as the Institute of West Asian and African Studies, Institute of Asian-African Studies of Peking University, Institute of Middle Eastern Studies of Northwest University, School of International Relations of Yunnan Universtiy and Shanghai Institute of International Studies. Research is focused on the contemporary issues and on collecting journals more than original language archives. The status in India was presented by MIT librarian, Omar Khalidi. I was impressed with the strong relationship between the Arabian Peninsula and of the vast manuscripts and documentary source collections in institutes such as Hyderabad University and Aligar University possessed.

From Indonesia, Labibah Zain, former librarian of Sunan Kalijaga Library, IAIN (Institut Agama Islam Negeri) in Yogyakarta, reported on the Middle East and Islamic related research institutes in the country and that 95% of the 4,500 titles of Middle East related books in Sunan Kilijaga Library are in Arabic. Information on organizations such as COMES (Center for Middle East Studies) which mainly handles Palestinian Issues and

ISMES (The Indonesian Society for Middle East Studies, Jakarta) was also introduced. The report on Korea was by former KAMES Secretary General Byoung Joo HAH, introducing the background of Middle East study, archive institutes and of the digital library movement. It was new to me that the Arabic department in Hankuk University of Foreign Studies was founded in 1965 and that KAMES was founded earlier than JAMES in 1979.

The report on Japan focused on documents and bibliographical databases as a means as a tool for research, introducing the NACSIS Webcat Arabic letter bibliography database by NII (National Institute of Informatics) which has been experimentally online since the autumn of 2003, “Bibliography of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies in Japan” (The Toyo Bunko) and the task of compiling and application of its counterpart “Bibliographical Database of Middle East Studies in Japan 1989-2003” (JAMES). The former was a program started up during the Islamic Area Studies Project. The NII using Arabic letters for NACSIS Webcat meant standardizing the bibliographical information that differed at each library into Arabic letters, opening the possibility of a complete search on materials located at the libraries in Japan online. I had thought that since American librarians have standardized transliteration as Latin letters for Middle Eastern language bibliographical information in earlier stages, there would be no search complications, but after my report was finished, Harvard University’s librarian came forth and complimented it as “a fabulous project.” In the United States, the Latin letter transliteration troubles none other than Arabs and exchange students from Arab countries. Transliterations of Arabic letters are not one, differing on country and field of study, and probably will not be unified in the future. If the number of students and researchers in Middle East studies from various countries visit Japan more, bibliographical information, which is the basis of research that can be searched in its original language and not a transliterated form will be an important common platform.

When Lesley Wilkins (Harvard Law School Library), planner of this project and MELA vice president, first brought the plan to me two years ago, I was quite impressed of her quick response to Asia’s Middle East research trends, from being a librarian in the forefront of research information collecting. The panel participants were about 40 people, mostly consisted of the hosting organization members and with the end of the report, compliments “wonderful” were heard from all around.



## **PANEL :**

### **Surveying Middle East Studies: Towards a Global Perspective**

#### **Chair's Report on the SSRC Panel**

**Seteney Shami**

(Director, Program on the Middle East and  
North Africa, Social Science Research Council ,  
New York)

Over the past three years, the program on the Middle East and North Africa of the Social Science Research Council (New York) has been collaborating with a number of Middle East Studies organizations to survey the state of research and training in selected countries, namely North America, Japan, Russia and France. Three meetings have been organized over this period, bringing together SSRC staff with representatives of MESA, JAMES, AFEMAM and the Institute of Asian and African Studies at Moscow State University.

In November 2003, the SSRC organized a special session at the 2003 MESA Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska which presented the results of the initiative. The session was chaired by Seteney Shami (SSRC) and stressed the importance of a comparative and international view of the field of Middle East studies in the light of current world events, disciplinary shifts (especially in the social sciences) and new challenges to long-standing definitions of the field. It is especially important to understand how the field is (or is not) reproducing itself through the generation of younger scholars, as well as to create awareness of how it is configured in different countries and contexts in order to enhance possibilities of academic cooperation and exchange over issues of mutual interest.

The MESA session was well-attended and generated a good debate. The presentations gave an overview of the academic organization of the field in the different countries, examined shifts in the infrastructure of training in Middle East studies, including the number of specialized academic units, course content, degree programs, enrollment numbers, language training, employment opportunities as well as the nature of produced knowledge through dissertations, periodicals, and book series. Survey results also addressed how departments and centers are responding to recent changes, the kinds of teaching resources that need to be developed to meet new needs and interests as well as the plans and aspirations of new cohorts of students entering the field. Presenters on the

North American context included Professor Anne Betteridge (University of Arizona) and Professor Juan Cole (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor). From Moscow State University, Professor Svetlana Kirillina and Professor Mikhail Meyer presented on the Russian situation, while Professor Randi Deguilhem (University of Aix en Provence and AFEMAM) presented on the study in France.

Professor MIURA Toru (JAMES) presented on the Japanese survey project, which includes a comprehensive account of the history of Middle East Studies in Japan and a survey of the 620 members of JAMES. Professor Miura's presentation focused on the changing relationship of Japan to the region on the one hand and the study of Islam on the other, and the ways in which research topics and interests have flowed from this relationship ever since the 1930s when the first research groups and institutes were founded for the study of the Middle East. Political changes in the Middle East region, such as the rise of Arab nationalism after WWII and the Iranian revolution of 1979, as well as conditions in Japan (especially after WWII) have also had their impact on the field.

Professor MIURA's presentation was also attentive to the current state of Middle East Studies in Japan, giving statistics on JAMES membership as well as on the geographic areas upon which researchers are focusing. Middle East studies in Japan is currently in its fourth generation of scholars, whom Professor ITAGAKI described as 'flourishing', but the framework of Middle East Studies may even be rendered obsolete. Following this presentation, Professor USUKI Akira(JAMES) also gave a brief address on the nature of Area Studies in Japan as well as the goals and challenges for the future of the field.

Following the session, the presenters and SSRC staff met to discuss possible publications arising out of this initiative. A variety of print and web publications are planned and hopefully will be ready for dissemination by the summer of 2004.

## **JAMES Member ' s Report**

**USUKI Akira**

(The Japan Center for Area Studies )

This panel was organized by Seteney Shami, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), subsequent to the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) held in Mainz last year. Reports based on results from a questionnaire by the SSRC Middle East North Africa program, taken on the present condition of Middle East studies in the

United States, France, Russia and Japan (Bulgaria absent) were presented by the subject country. This questionnaire was taken by JAMES members and the results were presented in detail based on substantial data by MIURA Toru. I added information on the “Area Studies Consortium” movement underway by universities and research institutes.

Hearing these reports, I felt that each reflected the country’s Middle East Islamic studies background and present situation. It was interesting that the questionnaire results were similar between Japan and the United States. The similarity was seen in responses to questions on discipline and area of research. For discipline, History, and for area, the Arab region, both ranked high and marked 30%. History was followed by politics, international relations, anthropology, linguistics, and literature. As for area of research, Iran and Turkey came in next (In Japan, Iran and Turkey both marked 8.2%).

Compared to the rapid development of Middle East Islamic studies after World War II in Japan and the United States, reports on both France and Russia reflected their history of colonial Orientalism. The presenter from France, Randi Deguilhem (IREMAM/CNRS) introduced the legacy of Orientalism through a time span of several centuries but this also made clear the difficulty of Middle East studies in a post-colonial era. From Russia, the report given by Svetlana Kirllina (Moscow University), also reflected difficulty, for the fact that the Muslim area of Central Asia was a part of Russia until the fall of the Soviet Union, on surveying Middle East Islamic studies inevitably have involved much of the interests of the researchers and academic institutes.

## **PANEL:**

### **Crossing Boundaries: Gender, the Public and the Private in Contemporary Muslim Societies**

November 8, 2003

Organized by Dale F. Eickelman

Chair: Diane Singerman, American University

Discussant: AKAHORI Masayuki , Sophia University, Japan

OHTSUKA Kazuo ( Tokyo Metropolitan University ) “Shifting Boundaries of Gender and Space in Arab Societies”

TAKAKI Keiko ( Obirin University ) “Women’s Income-Generating Work at Home and the New Media: A Tunisian Case”

YAMAGISHI Tomoko ( Meiji University ) “Incongruity between ‘Official’ and ‘Public’: Iranian Laborers in Japan”

Jon W. Anderson ( Catholic University of America ) “Muslim Networks, and Muslim Selves in Cyberspace”

Dale F. Eickelman ( Dartmouth College ) “Gender and Religion in the Public and Private Sphere”

### **Chair ’ s Report on the Joint Panel of “ Crossing Boundaries ”**

**Diane Singerman**

(Department of Government, School of Public Affairs, American University)

A well-attended and stimulating panel at MESA’s 2003 Annual Meeting in Anchorage Alaska raised questions about the boundaries between the public and private realms. In particular, it examined the ways in which women and men are renegotiating these boundaries as state policies, new economic realities, the internet and globalization impact work, norms, identity, and communication. AKAHORI Masayuki’s astute comments as discussant also enlivened the discussion of the papers.

Professor OHTSUKA’s paper discussed the seeming paradox between the growth and popularity of the socially conservative Islamist movement in Egypt and the fact that almost one quarter of Egypt’s labor force comprises women today. Though the home has been the “domain” of women, as they increasingly interact with other spaces in Egyptian society, they are adopting a fashionable form of veiling (and there are many), symbolizing their modesty and piety. Women have become the new customers at restaurants and coffeehouses, transforming what had been a very “male” space. The norms which restrict public fraternizing between unmarried youth has also eased, particularly in the commercial and upper class neighborhoods of Cairo. Similarly, these trends can be seen in Rabat, Morocco. In short, he argues that the “liberation of women” can co-exist with the Islamist movement for quite some time. It is not only female norms in Muslim societies which are changing. Due to the increasing economic pressures in Egypt and the prominence of TV and other entertainment, men may be associating far less with their male friends, and lingering inside the household—the supposed, traditional domain of women. OHTSUKA ends his interesting paper with a call for greater research on how gender norms construct male behavior and masculinity.

Dale Eickelman also noted the increasing visibility and prominence in the public arena of both religious and secular women. The seemingly modest transformations in access to communication, basic services, education, and work for women has led to subtle

yet irreversible boundaries in the gendered use of space and social norms. Renegotiating the religiously inscribed roles of mother and wife, women have found numerous ways to uphold the symbolic honor that continues to be invested in them. Dutch supermarkets that print the company logo on the headscarves that their largely female Muslim workers wear and Kuwaiti diwaniyyas which invite female speakers to address the exclusively male audience are only some representative examples of these changes. The process of modernity is always contested and its boundaries are shifting and uneven, as forces from below and above shape its contours.

Jon Anderson's presentation examined the information revolution and its particular consequences for the emergence of an activist but distinctly moderate Islam. The new media he argued moves Islamic discourse, practice, and new identities from the margins toward the center, into a wider public. The paper traced the ways in which different communities, including "technological adepts," activist and official voices of Islam and the professional middle class have appropriated this new technology. This techno-history, grounded in a particular economic and political context, offered fascinating insights into the popular sites of Islam online, their leaders, and publics that are being created. He suggested that Islam on the Internet is a world more of performances than paradigms, unconstrained by social and physical distance, as it shapes the identities and networks of its consumers.

TAKAKI Keiko examined the interaction between gendered norms of honor in Southern Tunisia and the ways in which economic development, the market cash economy, and consumerist ideals, promoted through visual media, has transformed attitudes toward work and the spatial dimensions of female employment. In order to reconcile increased consumerist values with norms which support gender segregation and codes of honor Tunisian women, particularly in rural areas, increasingly perform income generating work at home. In the domestic sphere, women have turned quotidian household activities into money-making ventures as they find outlets for products and services. The Tunisian government and national and international institutions recognize the particular position of illiterate women who are still very sensitive to perceptions of their morality and honor, and thus have encouraged micro-credit programs which link up women in rural areas, via the internet, to micro-finance institutions and NGOs in Arab countries. The boundaries between public and private, the economy and the domestic sphere, local and global are becoming increasingly intertwined in rural Tunisia.

YAMAGISHI Tomoko's paper is a fascinating study of the way in which Muslim immigrant workers in Japan have tried to establish public space for their communities in Japan despite an administrative policy of denying them legal and official status as immigrants and legal workers. The paper describes a particular case in Tokyo where the Japanese became intolerant to the "other" in public as a result of misrepresentation of their behavior in the mass media and the growing perception of Iranians as an embodiment of latent danger. The "bubble economy" and boom in the late 1980s and early 1990s led to a high demand for immigrant labor and the government permitted entry into Japan without visas although these "new-comers" could not attain work permits or legal status. Despite their ambivalent status, these immigrant communities had begun to build institutions to improve their status. Although the new-comers were not as numerous as the early immigrants from East Asia and the descendants of Japanese who emigrated to Latin America, the growth rate of these Muslims' entry into Japan was unprecedented and striking. Larger changes in Japan's society facilitated its increasing permeability, even though the Japanese public still sees "the other" as problematic.

Because the European notion of "public" was interpreted as "ohyake," a Japanese word used in reference to the Emperor and the Shogunate, the Japanese had identified "public" with "official" and "governmental." Now, after the social changes, many Japanese in cities have only a vague idea of "ohyake," as they are more occupied with their individual appetite for consumption and information, and pay less attention to "other people" who once would have been perceived as neighbors or society. As the intimate sphere for Japanese narrowed and scattered, a large vacant space appeared, into which the "unknown other" could enter. The pendulum, Professor YAMAGISHI argued, is swinging back the other way as Muslims in Japan have reduced their visibility and public presence after September 11th and the government has increased its surveillance of them.

### **JAMES Member's Report**

**TAKAKI Keiko**

(Obirin University )

Acknowledging the fact that this year's MESA meeting theme is "Speaking Across Boundaries", this panel continued and developed the session at the 2001 Islamic Area Studies International Symposium (at Kisarazu). Professor Dale Eickelman from the United States, Professor Prof. OHTSUKA Kazuo from Japan organized this panel. The session was composed of presentations by Eickelman and Anderson, editors of "New

Media in the Muslim World” which has been partially revised, reprinted with a new cover and marking favorable sales, and for chair was Diana Singerman (American University), a keen international politics researcher also conducting anthropologic fieldwork at Cairo, Egypt, and Professor AKAHORI as discussant. Though 13 sessions were also being held at the same hour, an audience of about 30 people attended and among them were Juan COLE (Michigan University), IJMES editor-in-chief and Fanny Colonna (CNRS), famous Maghrib researcher of France. Presentations proceeded strictly as scheduled and Professor AKAHORI commented on the problem of face front relationships and anonymity of a public domain and also about the internet leading in to an advent of both a new public domain and an infinite private domain. At the end of the session, question-answer was held and many hands were raised from the floor. Questions such as questioning the appropriateness of a boarder itself in the time of globalization sparked such active discussions that there was not enough time.

There were many sessions concerning new media even for this meeting. I had attended the AIMS (American Institute for Maghrebian Studies) meeting and there, former CEMAT (Centre d'Études Maghrébines à Tunis) director Mark Tessler (Arizona University) was reporting on the symposium on new media held in Oran in Algeria, hosted by CEMAT. This shows that new media is not merely a trend theme. In the Middle East, Internet café's have grown rapidly in these few years and even cellular phones which were very rare in the past is now becoming an everyday appliance. How new media greatly affects and partially changes the way of human relations, behavior patterns and the way of thinking can be observed in many areas, but to see what the influence would be on the Middle East, especially in an area where gender segregation, multi-ethnicity, multi-religion and religious parties intertwine, will be a particularly interesting research theme not just only to modern studies such as social studies and anthropology. However, my weeklong stay in America has raised doubts on how new media should be. This year's meeting was held at the Anchorage Hilton, but even at this first-rate hotel, the 30 channels that could be viewed on television were all American broadcasts and there was not one single satellite broadcast. This was not because this was in Alaska. I remember how it was the same last year at the hotel in New York when I had stayed for an international meeting. TV reporting in the United States was extremely one-sided.

## **Establishing an “Area Studies Associations Contact Committee”**

**OHTSUKA Kazuo**

(Tokyo Metropolitan University)

On July 6, 2003 at The University of Tokyo (Komaba Campus), representatives from 15 academic societies for area studies in Japan came together to establish an “Area Studies Associations Contact Committee” where academic societies engaged in area studies will contribute to the development of area studies in Japan by interacting and making proposals for the benefit of one another. The committee objectives are as follows:

- 1) to establish contacts and hold discussions for the improvement of area studies
- 2) to promote joint research on inter-area comparisons and global issues as well as scholarly contribute to the harmonic development of global society
- 3) to actively participate in organizations and activities such as the Science Council of Japan and withhold responsibility as a member of the Japanese scholar community
- 4) to set foundations of area studies by preparing competitive funding such as grants for scientific research and provide an education system for training next generation researchers
- 5) to promote exchange with international academic associations involved in area studies and appeal the results of area studies in Japan to contribute to the development of a world wide area studies

The following academic associations assembled the founding meeting.

Japan Association for Asian Studies, The Japanese Association for American Studies, The Academic Association of Koreanology in Japan, Japan Society for Southeast Asian History, The Insitutute of Eastern Culture, Japan Association for African Studies, Asociacion Japonesa de Hispanias, The Japanese Society for Oceanic Studies, Japanese Association for Canadian Studies, The Japanese Council of Russia and East European Studies, Japan Association for Middle East Studies, Japan Association for Nile-Ethiopian Studies, The Japanese Association for South Asian Studies, Japan Association for Latin American Studies and The Japan Association for Russian and East European Studies. Later, The Association for the Japanese Sea Rim Studies and Japan Society of Social Science on Latin America have joined the committee, making the number of participants a total of 17 associations.



## **Launching the “Bibliographical Database of Middle East Studies in Japan 1989-2003 (trial edition)”**

With fund support by The Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the trial edition of the database above will be available on the JAMES homepage at the following address, starting from November 11. <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/james/database.html>

The data currently available are documents of the JAMES members whom responded to the questionnaire taken this year from June to August (around 300 people). Replies to the questionnaire can still be sent to the following e-mail: [james@cc.ocha.ac.jp](mailto:james@cc.ocha.ac.jp)

Bibliography covering until 1988 are accessible on the following homepage.

<http://www.toyo-bunko.or.jp/ceacs/IslamME.html> (free of charge)

<http://www.nii.ac.jp/ir/ir-j.html> (charged)

### **JAMES International Workshop: “Changing Knowledge and Authority in Islam”**

On March 25 and 26, 2004, JAMES will host the international workshop above. SATO Tsugitaka (Waseda University), member of the Middle East Studies Council of the Social Science Research Council and leader of Islamic Area Studies, proposed of holding an international workshop on issues concerning changing Islamic knowledge and religious authority in efforts to reach a total understanding on the globalization of Islam. The JAMES board has decided to organize this workshop in March in cooperation with the Toyo Bunko, with financial aid from the Japan Foundation.

The workshop will take up medieval to modern times consecutively, the vast area of Middle East to East Asia and the way of “knowledge and authority” into debate. “Knowledge and authority” means the workshop will not only focus on Sunnah, but will approach Shiah and Sufi networks as well as the exchange of “Western Ideas” of liberalism and communism to present the pluralistic Islamic world of knowledge. Details are as follows.

## **Changing Knowledge and Authority in Islam**

at the Sanjo Conference Hall, The University of Tokyo

### **March 25th, Thursday**

#### **13:30-13:40 Opening Address:**

SATO Tsugitaka (Organizer, Waseda University, Tokyo)

KOSUGI Yasushi (President of JAMES, Kyoto University)

#### **13:45-17:00**

#### **Session 1: Sufism and Tariqa Movements in the Era of Islamic Resurgence**

Chair: AKAHORI Masayuki (Sophia University)

TONAGA Yasushi (Kyoto University), "Sufism in the Past and Present"

Mark SEDGWICK (American University in Cairo, Cairo), "Tariqa and Reform and Tariqa Reform in the Arab World"

Mahmut Erol KILIC (Marmara University, Istanbul) "Effects of Sufism on Modern Turkish Society: Intellectuals and Politicians"

KOMATSU Hisao (The University of Tokyo, Central Asian History), "Islamic Resurgence and Tariqa in Central Asia"

#### **Discussion 16:30-17:30**

Discussant: KISAICHI Masatoshi (Sophia University), IIZUKA Masato (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, ILCAA)

#### **Welcome Party 18:00-20:00**

### **March 26th, Friday**

#### **Session 2 9:30-13:00**

#### **Sites and Networks of Religious Authorities**

Chair: MATSUNAGA Yasuyuki (Nihon University, Tokyo)

Jonathan BERKEY (Davidson College, Davidson), "The Transmission of Knowledge and Religious Authority: Medieval Institutions and Modern Problems"

SATO Minoru (Kanazawa University, Kanazawa, Japan), "Knowledge and Tradition of Chinese Muslim Intellectuals"

SATO Noriko (Durham University, London), "Religious and Political Networks:

al-Khoei Foundation and Other Political Minorities”

Mohsen KADIVAR (Tarbiyat Modarres University, Tehran), “The New Ideas and Influence of Molla Mohammad Kazem Khorasani”

**Discussion** 12:10-13:00

### **Session 3 14:10-17:30**

#### **New Thinkers in Islam : Intellectual Map of Contemporary Muslim World**

Chair: KURITA Yoshiko (Chiba University, Tokyo)

NAKATA Koh (Doshisha University, “The Influence of Ibn Taymiyya's Thought in Contemporary Islam”

Abou Elela Mady (International Center for Studies, Cairo), “A Model of Islamic Political Thinking in Egypt”

Tea Break 15:20-15:40

Mohamed A. Mahmoud (Tufts University, Birmingham, UK), “Mahmud Muhammad Taha and the Crisis of Modern Islam”

Ulil Abshar Abdalla (Institute for Research and Human Resource Development of Nahdlatul Ulama , Jakarta), “The Liberal Interpretation of Islam: The Indonesian Case”

**Discussion** 15:50 - 16:30

### **General Discussion** 16:30-17:30

Discussant: Dwight F. Reynolds (University of California, Santa Barbara)

### **Organizing Committee:**

SATO Tsugitaka (Organizer, Waseda University)

KURITA Yoshiko (Chiba University), MATSUNAGA Yasuyuki (Nihon University), MIURA Toru (Ochanomizu University), SAKAI Keiko (Institute of Developing Economies), Dwight REYNOLDS (University of California, Santa Barbara), TONAGA Yasushi (Kyoto University),

## **AJAMES’s Renewal and Call for Paper 2004**

Since 2003, AJAMES has been in the hands of a new editorial committee and its contents is renewed completely as follows.

### **1. Change of Publication Times and Deadlines**

Until 2002, AJAMES was published at the end of the academic year in March. However, from 2003, two issues (one in spring and one in autumn) will be published. Following this change, the deadline for articles will be the end of March 2004 for the 20/1 issue, and the end of September 2004 for the 20/2 issue.

## 2. Ideas for Feature Articles

In addition to the regular contribution, we plan to publish several articles on a theme. The main intent of the feature articles is to provide Japanese Middle Eastern studies with more opportunity for international exposure. The Volume 19/1 has the Special Issue “A Comparative Perspective on Asia: Ownership and Contracts.” Please contact us at the address below with any ideas you may have regarding feature articles.

[Editorial Committee of AJAMES]

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AJAMES is sent to JAMES members who have paid the membership fee for the year of publication. If you have not received a recent volume of AJAMES, please ask the Secretariat Office about your payment and AJAMES distribution.

### **JAMES Newsletter, No.97**

March 15, 2004

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