



The 80th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and
Iraq Commemorative Lecture Series
The Second Lecture

Japan – Iraq Relations Early days in 1930s and their expansion in 1970s - 80s

1. Date, Time and Venue

10:00-12:50, Thursday, 18th July 2019 at the North Hall, Ground Floor, Al Rasheed Hotel

2. Program

Time	Event
10:00-10:05	Opening by Embassy of Japan
10:05-10:15	Remarks by Mr. Naofumi Hashimoto, Ambassador of Japan to Iraq
10:15-10:55	“ Japan’s Expanding Relations with Iraq in 1970s - 80s ” by Ms. Akiko Yoshioka, Senior Analyst, JIME Center, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ)
10:55-11:20	Q&A
11:20-11:40	(Coffee break)
11:40-12:20	“ Japan and Iraq: An Early History ” by Prof. Shuji Hosaka, Senior Research Fellow, JIME Center, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ)
12:20-12:45	Q&A
12:45-12:50	Closing by Embassy of Japan

3. Outline and Purpose of the event

This event is to follow the first lecture in February by Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Naofumi Hashimoto, in which he delivered “An overview of Japan’s Activities in Iraq during the last 15 Years” focusing on our relations between 2003 and 2018.

As the second round of the commemorative lecture series, the Embassy presents those two lectures on our relations in early days 1930s, and in its expansion in 1970s - 80s.

History of the relations between Japan and Iraq is not so long. However, it is very complex, despite its relative shortness. Prof. Hosaka will give a precious talk about the early relations between the two countries, which has been unfortunately overlooked. The aim of his talk is to find out Japan’s pre-World War II commitment to Iraq in the fields of trade, energy and politics by giving concrete examples, mainly based on open sources including Japanese official documents, and books and reports published by some Japanese who visited Iraq. Based on these original sources, Prof. Hosaka will shed light on some unknown facts about Japan's huge presence in the Middle East and in Iraq in particular.

Following the oil crisis in 1973, Japan started to take serious actions to strengthen relations with Middle Eastern oil producing countries, including Iraq, for the sake of the national energy security. At the same time, Iraq was trying to tackle economic development and needed Japan's technology and experience. Sharing a mutual interest, relations between Iraq and Japan expanded tremendously from mid 1970s through 1980s. Ms. Akiko Yoshioka will deliver some valuable talk about this period.

4. Speakers

- Professor Shuji HOSAKA, Senior Research Fellow, JIME Center, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ)

Prof. Shuji HOSAKA is Senior Research Fellow at JIME Center, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ). After receiving an M.A. (Oriental History) from Keio University in Tokyo, Prof. Hosaka became Special Assistant of the Japanese Embassies in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Since then, he has held various posts in the fields of the Middle Eastern studies, including Researcher of the Middle East Institute of Japan, and Professor of International Center for Human Sciences, Kindai University, Osaka. He is currently Senior Research Fellow, JIME Center, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) and Adjunct Professor of Waseda University. Among his publications are *Beggars and Islam* (1995), *Osama bin Laden's Holy Wars* (2001), *Saudi Arabia: Petro-Kingdom in Transition* (2005), *What's Going on in Afghanistan?* (ed., 2010) *Iraq War and the Changing Middle East* (2012) , and *Jihadism* (2017).

- Ms. Akiko YOSHIOKA, Senior Analyst, JIME Center, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ)

Ms. Akiko YOSHIOKA is a senior analyst, JIME Center, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ). She was a visiting researcher in the Gulf Research Centre in Dubai in 2007 and constantly provides expertise through institute's publications and media. The fields of her research interests are contemporary Iraqi politics and energy, including Iraqi Kurdistan Region. She has been working on the issue of governance of a fragile state in recent years. Her recent English publications include; "The Shifting Balance of Power in Iraqi Kurdistan: The Struggle for Democracy with Uninstitutionalized Governance" *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*, 2015; "What Caused the KRG Miscalculation on the Independence Referendum?" *Fikra Forum*, Jan 03, 2018; "Relations between Japan and the Middle East," *The Newsletter*, No.80, International Institute for Asian Studies, 2018.

5. Organizer

Embassy of Japan in Iraq

6. Language

English, Arabic (Q&A session only).

