

International Workshop

“Future of Iraq: Social, Economic and Political Issues in Question”

January 16 – 17, 2010

Crowne Plaza Hotel, The Liberty Room, Hamra, Beirut

Iraq after 2003 experienced dramatic social, economic, and political changes; war, civil wars, occupation, the destruction of infrastructure, regime change, elections, a new constitution, a multi-party system, the emergence of Islamic networks, identity politics, local autonomy, etc., etc.

Almost seven years has passed since the war in Iraq and it is expected that Iraq will have a second general election for their parliament at the end of January 2010. Although the security situation has improved since the end of 2007, the economic and social situation still suffers from deterioration; furthermore, there are a number of serious problems and difficulties to be solved on the path to achieving future political and social stability, such as the issues of the federal system, oil, post-conflict reconciliation, political arrangements among the political parties as well as among ethnic/communal groups.

The Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies in Beirut, a liaison office of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, is organising this International Workshop on Iraq, which will focus on current issues in post-war Iraq, inviting prominent scholars from both inside and outside Iraq. The workshop will take place on 16-17 January 2010, and will act as a juncture not only for academic circles in Iraq, those in the Middle East, and international scholars from all over the world, but will also offer a valuable opportunity for discussion of the social, economic, political and cultural problems of post-war Iraq. We will be delighted to open our discussions to as wide an audience as possible.

This workshop is supported by

Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES), Beirut

“Conflict, Collapsed State, and Social Movements in the Contemporary”, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

“Searching for New Notion of Area and Coexistence: Bridging Middle East and Asia”, Needs-based Programme for Area Studies, sponsored by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (coordinator of both: Keiko SAKAI)

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Workshop Programme

FIRST DAY: January 16 (Sat.)

9:45: Opening Remarks

10:00 - 12:30

Displacement and Diaspora – Iraq’s Refugees, Part I: Dynamics of Displacement - Displacement Processes in Iraq

Philip Marfleet (University of East London). “Understanding Iraqi Displacement 1.”

Nasir Samarraie (Prof., Int Committee Red Cross) “Dynamics of Displacement.”

Ekraam Ghazali (International Medical Corps) “Displacement in Baghdad.”

Fyras Mawazini (NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI)) “Iraqi Returnees: the Challenges Ahead.”

Intisar al-Fartoosi (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) “IDPs in Iraq.”

13:30-15:50

Displacement and Diaspora - Iraq's Refugees, Part II: Refugee Communities

Presentations:

Geraldine Chatelard (Institut Français du Proche-Orient) “Understanding Iraqi Displacement 2.”

Kamel Dorai (Institut Français du Proche-Orient) “Iraqis in Syria.”

Didem Danis (Galatasaray University) “Iraqis in Turkey.”

Sara Sadek (American University in Cairo), “Iraqis in Egypt.”

16:20-18:10

Nationalism and Ethnic/Communal Identities in Contemporary Iraqi Politics: Cases of the Islamists and the Kurds

Organizer: Keiko Sakai (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

Dai Yamao (Kyoto University) “Islamism or Nationalism? Struggle for New Iraqi State-building.”

Akiko Yoshioka (JIME Center-IEEJ) “The Position of the Kurds: Shaky Federal System in the New Iraq.”

Faleh A. Jabar (Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies) “Rise and Decline of Identity Politics in Iraq, 2003 – 2009.”

SECOND DAY: January 17 (Sun)

10:00 - 12:50

Contemporary Issues of Oil and Economy in Iraq

Organizer: Kamil Mahdi (Transnational Institute, Amsterdam)

Presentations:

Falah al-Khawaja (Independent Consultant based in Amman) "Optimum Iraq Oil Production Rates 2010-2020"

Walid Khadduri (Writer on Energy Affairs)

Ahmed Jiyad (Independent Scholar) "The Fiscal Regime Governing Iraq's Upstream Petroleum Development."

Ali K Merza (Independent Scholar) "Oil & Economic Issues in Iraq"

Kamil Mahdi (Transnational Institute, Amsterdam) "Imperialism, Fragmentation and Iraqi Economic Policymaking."

14:00-15:30

Education in Iraq: Present Facts and Future Trend

Moderator: Shimran al-Ajli (Bayt al-Hikma, Baghdad)

Presentations:

Amal Shalash (Bayt al-Hikma, Baghdad)

Kareem Hamza (Bayt al-Hikma, Baghdad)

15:50 - 19:20

Iraqi Self-Conception in History & Culture

Organiser: Hala Fattah (Independent Scholar, former researcher in The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq)

Presentations:

Hala Fattah (Independent Scholar) "Things I Learned about the Royalist Era in Iraq by Conducting an Oral History Project."

Rashad Salim (International Network of Contemporary Iraqi Artists: iNCiA) "Iraqi Art after 2003."

Fathia Al-Joumaily (Independent Iraqi Sociologist) "Factors that Paved the Way for the Occupation of Iraq and Their Effects on Iraqi Society After 2003."

Maysoon Pachachi (Iraqi Film Director) presenting her documentary film, "Open Shutters IRAQ."

19:20 - 19:30

Concluding Remarks