



The Impacts of the Syrian Crisis on the Arab Countries





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EDITORIAL

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Messages from President of LEBA-JICA



..... Dr. Jaoudat Abou-Jaoude

The years 2014-2015 mark an innovative vision for the new board of directors of LEBA-JICA that of reevaluating what has achieved in the past and developing a sustainable action program for the future. In this framework, the board continues to strengthen the role of LEBA-JICA by implementing regional workshops that highlight on people's basic needs in the region, as well as develop capacity building for its members.

The new challenge LEBA-JICA is facing is to add new members to its association and by that continue to reinforce its role as an active and dynamic member of the society, as well as to maintain, motivate, and activate its present members. It is worth mentioning that all of LEB-JICA members are

professionals with plenty of responsibilities exerted on them, which limit their time given to LEBA-JICA, and that their participation is mainly on voluntary bases.

Through transparency, perseverance and commitment, as well as the support of our associates, JICA and the Japanese embassy, the board hopes to reach this objective.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the JICA and the Japanese embassy in Lebanon for its continuous support. I also want to thank all our colleagues who voted for us to be their new board of directors, and hope that we will be up to their expectations in the coming year.



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Messages from His Excellency
Mr. Seiichi Otsuka
Ambassador of Japan in Lebanon

.....

We reach the 4th anniversary of the East Japan Great Earthquake disaster on March 11 this year. I vividly remember how frightening it was as if it had happened yesterday. At the same time, we feel our gratitude for a lot of words of encouragement and various supports to Japan from each country of the world after that disaster.

When the Earthquake broke out, I was in Tokyo, a place 350 km away from the major hit area, and I felt the intense shake I have never experienced before.

Thanks to these tremendous supports, the disaster area has been fairly reconstructed. According to the Reconstruction Agency of Japan, considerable number of the victims have moved to the houses with permanent facilities from temporary housing, and prospects of new city planning have become in sight. The level of industrial products and employment rate in the area has been tantamount to the national average.

However, the treatment with radioactive contaminated water remains unsolved. The emergency evacuation area adjacent to the Fukushima nuclear plant still remains off limit even though the designated area has been gradually reduced.

Japan hosts the Third UN World Conference on disaster risk reduction in Sendai City March from 14 to 18 this year, with the purpose of sharing lessons and experience from the Earthquake with other countries.

I wish countries as many as possible will participate in this Conference, bring its results back to their countries, and reflect it in their own policies. No country can be free from calamity of natural disaster, and Lebanon is not exceptional.

Therefore, we wish JICA programs including training course and dispatch of an expert regarding administrative management on disaster risk reduction will be made available to Lebanon. Any country can mitigate its negative impact if each people and community prepares to take all possible measures against unpredictable natural disaster beforehand.

We appreciate LEBA-JICA tabled the issue on disaster risk management as agenda of Workshop in 2014 to disseminate it into the country. We hope LEBA-JICA would be a frontrunner to keep enlightening people.



Message from **Ms. Makiko Okumura**

**Deputy Director, Middle East Division 2, Middle East and Europe Department,
Japan International Cooperation Agency**



It is my great honor to have this opportunity to greet all members of LEBA-JICA.

It has been one year since I have been assigned to the current position, being in charge of JICA's cooperation to Lebanon. Year 2013 and 2014 was the time when the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon became much severer. During this one year, I have been struggling how we can contribute to address the issue.

I am very grateful to LEBA-JIC members, who are always very helpful for me and JICA. In the end of April 2014, I was in Beirut to meet with some of the LEBA-JICA members to discuss how we can collaborate to mitigate the impact of the Syrian crisis. That was the first experience for me to work in Lebanon, and the members kindly showed friendship and told us how much Lebanon is affected by the Syrian crisis. Through discussion with the members, I came to think that we are obliged to do something in this regard.

On January 16th, 2015, I was in Beirut again to attend the valuable workshop on "The Impacts of the Syrian Crisis on the Arab Countries". Although it seemed challenging to discuss the theme, I believe that it was a good opportunity for the participants to share the situation. I would like to thank all the participants from different Arab countries for their

kind participation in the workshop. The regional workshop is truly a good example of efforts of the alumni to make an opportunity for the ex-participants to JICA's training and dialogue program to share information each other and to strengthen friendship.

Year 2014 marked the 60th anniversary of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), which started in 1954. JICA think that we should enhance partnerships with development actors worldwide, based on lessons drawn from history, comparative advantages and constraints of its own development aid, and improve internal and external communication concerning its ODA policy.

I believe that the JICA Alumni Associations are vital partners and asset for JICA. When I worked in Jordan from 2007 to 2011, I realized that JICA Alumni Association in Jordan (JAAJ) and its members are our good partner in spreading the knowledge and experiences the Alumni members have obtained in Japan, since the Alumni has wide range of specialists and they have willingness to contribute to the society.

Especially under the present circumstances in the region, the importance of JICA Alumni Associations increases. For instance, when the Gaza's ceasefire occurred in August 2014, JICA and Alumni association in Gaza cooperated in providing relief supplies as quick assistance for the people in Gaza, in collaboration with UNRWA and an NGO of youth from Ramallah. As seen in this case, in all or a part of the countries like Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, and Egypt, where security situation might prevent foreign personnel to enter but assistance is most needed, JICA alumni associations can be the vital partners for JICA in realizing the assistance for the people. I wish collaboration with LEBA-JICA would be more deepened.

Lastly, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to Leba-JICA for their always kind and great effort. I wish our collaboration and friendship between two counties would last for a long.



As a new board of directors was elected on 25/4/2014.
All members of the board were invited to a dinner at the residence of
His Excellency the ambassador of Japan

Mr. Seiichi OTSUKA.

..... Major activities organized by the LEBA-JICA board:



A General LEBA-JICA meeting was held on 25/7/ 2014 to introduce the vision of the newly elected board of directors. This activity was followed by a dinner (Iftar) organized by LEBA-JICA and was attended by His Excellency the ambassador of Japan Mr. Seiichi OTSUKA, her Excellency the director general of Tourism Mrs. Nada Sardouk, his Excellency the director general of industry Mr. Dany Jedeon and many distinguished members from the Japanese embassy and LEBA-JICA.

Regional Coordination Meeting



A regional coordination meeting was held in Beirut and was attended by the Japanese Alumni Association in Syria (JAAS), the Japanese Alumni Association in Jordan (JAAJ) and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Syria and LEBA-JICA to choose a topic for the Regional Workshop that will be held by the end of the year.

The representatives from JICA alumni associations chose “The Impact of the Syrian Crisis on the Arab Countries” as a topic for the workshop. The topic was then endorsed by JAAS, JAAJ, JICA, and LEBA-JICA

Regional Workshop



..... Regional Workshop on “The Impacts of the Syrian Crisis on the Arab Countries”

Organized by LEBA-JICA (JICA Alumni Association in Lebanon).

Under the patronage of his Excellency the Minister of Social Affairs

Mr. Rachid Derbass in coordination with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), and the Embassy of Japan in Lebanon

Beirut, January 15-17, 2015

A regional workshop was held in Beirut. It started on the evening of 15/1/2015 with a welcoming dinner by His Excellency the ambassador of Japan **Mr. Seiichi OTSUKA** at his residence for the participants in the workshop. The dinner was proceeded with a thank you speech from all the head of each association to His Excellency the ambassador of Japan Mr. Seiichi OTSUKA.

Dinner at the residence of His Excellency the ambassador of Japan Mr. Seiichi OTSUKA attended by JAAE, JAAI, JAAJ, JAAM and LEBA-JICA



Introduction

In 2014, the number of Syrian displaced caused by the Syrian conflict has reached around 1,700,000 in Lebanon, 800,000 in Jordan 400,000 in Iraq, 140,000 in Egypt and 5000 in Morocco. This situation has imposed a heavy burden on the displaced as well as on the hosting countries.

In respond to this Syrian crisis the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), the Ministry of Environment (MOE), the World Bank (WB), and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) in addition to other local and international organizations have developed a set of studies the most recent of which are “Lebanon Road Map for Priority Interventions” and “The Impact of the Syrian Conflict on the Environment and to set a Priority Intervention”.

As already mentioned, Lebanon as well as many other Arab countries is affected by the Syrian crisis, and there are already plenty of studies that identify what is need to do. It is now time to develop a regional action plan to implement such studies through practical projects that ignores political conflicts, and focuses more on the basic human needs. Such action could reduce some of the agony and suffering that the displaced communities, and the hosting countries are experiencing.

Opening ceremony

The work shop in its opening ceremony, covered speeches by the guest speakers Mr. Ahmad Kassem, representing H.E. Minister of Social Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Seiichi OTSUKA Ambassador of Japan, Ms. Makiko Okumura Deputy Director, Middle East and Europe Department, JICA. covered a speeches by Dr. Jaoudat Abou-Jaoude president of LEBA-JICA and Mrs. Antoinette Ghatass secretary of LEBA-JICA.

The Guest Speakers expressed their concerns and deep sympathy as well as their willingness to help by all means to reduce the negative impact exerted by the Syrian crisis on the displaced and on the hosting countries. They also hoped that this regional workshop can come up with suggestions that can help the participants tackle this crisis for the well being of the hosted and the hosting communities.





President of LEBA-JICA
Dr. Jaoudat Abou-Jaoude



H.E. Ambassador of Japan
Mr. Seiichi OTSUKA



**Deputy Director, Middle East and Europe
Department, JICA**
Ms. Makiko Okumura



Representative of H.E. Minister of Social Affairs
Mr. Ahmad Kassem (MOSA)



Secretary of LEBA-JICA
Mrs. Antoinette Ghattass

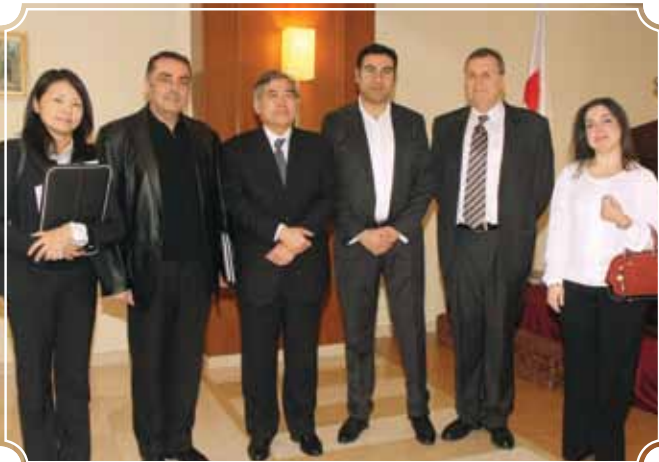


The workshop included speakers from the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, JICA, CCP (Japan), Syria JICA office, the JICA alumni associations of Lebanon, Iraq, Morocco, Jordan and Egypt.

Unfortunately, the Syrian representatives were absent due to a storm that blocked the road leading to the Lebanese borders.

..... The major titles of the presentations:

- **“The Impacts of the Syrian Crisis on Lebanon”** (Lebanon)
by Mrs. Aimee Karam from Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs.
- **“Assistance to the Syrian Refugees & Host Communities” – “Japan’s Respond to the Syrian Crisis”**
by Ms. Makiko Okumura (JICA).
- **Emergency Support for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon** by Ms. Eiko Minami CCP (JAPAN).
- **“The Economic, Social and Environmental Impact of the Syrian Crisis on Iraq”** (Iraq)
by Mr. Eng. Nabil Ahmad Abed Alrahman JICA Alumni Association in Iraq.
- **“The Conditions of the Syrian Displaced in Morocco”** (Morocco)
by Ms. Ouafae Sabiti “In charge of the Technical cooperation program and the South-South cooperation” JICA Morocco.
- **“The Impacts of the Syrian Displacement and the Phases they pass through in the Hosting Countries”** (Jordan) by Mr. Eng. Hani Khlayfat JICA Alumni Association in Jordan.
- **“Syrian Crisis and its Impacts on the neighboring Countries”** (Egypt)
by Mr. Maher Waked, JICA Alumni Association in Egypt.





JICA office

JAAJ (Jordan)



JICA

JAAJ (Jordan)

**JAAM (Morocco)****JAAI (Iraq)****JAAE (Egypt)****JICA****JAAI (Iraq)**



MOSA



CCP (Japan)

After the meeting LEBA-JICA president and board members delivered to the participants certificates and medal shields in recognition for their commitment and dedication to the success of the JICA Alumni Association.





By the end of the Regional Workshop a wrap-up meeting was held during which the participants discussed the output of the presentations and concluded with the following set of recommendations on how to deal with the Syrian crisis from his/her point of view as well as on other issues that concern the associations.



..... Recommendations set by the Regional workshop:

After the meeting, the participants concluded with wishes that:

- The JICA office could support the JICA alumni associations financially and logistically to support the Syrian displaced.
- The JICA office could increase its financial support to the Lebanese government as well as to other concerned Arab countries that are affected by the Syrian crisis in order to deal with that crisis.
- The JICA office could develop cultural centers in the Arab countries to help the JICA alumni members strengthen their cultural relationships and interactions with each other and with Japan.
- The JICA office could organize training and capacity building sessions for the JICA alumni members in Japan to help them manage properly their disasters.
- An annual meeting should be held between selected representatives from each of the JICA Alumni Associations in a chosen Arab country, to activate interaction between them, in order to develop common strategies, capacity building and exchange of information, as well as any other action that is found necessary.
- Increase the workshop duration to become three days instead of two.

Other suggestions that were proposed after the workshop.

- Present the recommendations set by the regional workshop to the ministries concerned with the Syrian Displaced including the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry interiors and Municipalities to deal with them.
- Choose as a topic for the next regional workshop “Capacity Building for the JICA Alumni Associations”

..... Conclusion

Last year, the Regional Workshop explored Disasters caused by nature. Ironically, this year, the workshop tackled disasters caused by humans.

As a team, our aim from this Regional Workshop was to look at the Syrian crisis from a humanitarian perspective while taking into account the socio-economic and environmental factors that surround it, and try to come up with recommendations that could reduce the pain, agony, and sorrow that are putting their heavy burden on our dear neighbors.



A special thank you visit was made by the board of directors of LEBA-JICA represented by the president **Dr. Abou-Jaoude** and the treasurer **Mr. Mokdad** on **23/1/2015** to **His Excellency Mr. Seiichi Otsuka Ambassador of Japan** to offer him a medal shield in recognition for his continuous support to LEBA-JICA.

البيد = حيكما

العدد رقم ٨ آذار ٢٠١٥

نشرة تصدرها الجمعية الثقافية لخريجي
الوكالة اليابانية للتعاون الدولي - لبنان



تداعيات الأزمة السورية على البلدان العربية

