

***Renowned Japanese scholar seeks out LERC***

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Dr. Uno Masaki, renowned professor at the Faculty of International Studies at Hiroshima City University since 2002 and whose interests lie in the fields of cultural anthropology and folklore studies, visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU as a result of his search on the Internet.

Dr. Masaki Research Publications include studies on social and historical aspects of the Druze in Lebanon; on central and local leadership in Syria, on Syrian economic development and regional exploitation; and a study on the Lebanese Civil War and military interventions. He is also an author of several articles and an affiliate of various academic societies in Japan.

As a result of his interest in finding out more about networking between Lebanon and its diaspora, especially in the case of Lebanese immigrants in Argentina, Dr. Masaki sought out LERC for material related to this topic, which LERC was able to provide.



Dr. Masaki pictured at the museum on his visit to LERC (Sept 2011).

After being introduced to the Lebanese Archives and Database, LERC's electronic archives, from which the material was extracted, Dr. Masaki was taken on a tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU.

The relationship between LERC and Japan was cemented in July 2009 when the Center opened its doors to receive researchers from Tokyo University in Japan, led by Dr. Hidemitsu Kuroki, for a two-day event which focused on introducing the visiting professors to the LERC materials and resources in order to build a foundation for future work together.

On departing, Dr. Masaki thanked LERC for its assistance and expressed his wish that relations between the Center and Japan would continue to flourish. He also promised that he would be sending some material himself to LERC once he was back in Japan.