

## **Hourani Comments on a Paper for the 2012 Middle East and Islamic Studies at the Japan Workshop in Beirut**

December 11, 2012

As part of its mission, the Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES) organized its 2012 workshop whereby young Japanese researchers presented their academic, mostly Ph.D. dissertation research, before a panel of experts who were invited to comment on the work in their field of expertise.

This year's workshop featured six research works, which covered various subjects, ranging from the post-9/11 history of Arab-American organization in the US and the Arab Spring in Morocco to analyzing the Constitutional Assembly in Kuwait, looking at the development of Islamic tourism, discussing Shah Wali Allah's intellectual work, and analyzing the history of artillery in Iran, during the British-Iranian relations in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



*Director Hourani (left) Commenting of Dr. Nukii's Paper (Beirut December 1, 2012)*

Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) was invited in the capacity of an expert on Middle Eastern migration to read, comment, and advise on a paper by Dr. Mari Nukii, Research Associate at the

Waseda University in Tokyo. The paper was entitled “The history of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services: Living as ‘Arab-Americans’ in America Before and after 9/11,” which dealt with the history and services of the organization before and after 9/11. Hourani also served as an observer during other workshops.

Other commentators were professors from the Lebanese University, the American University of Beirut, the Institut Français de Proche-Orient and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

The JaCMES is the first overseas satellite office established in Beirut, Lebanon in 2005 by the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) to enhance academic foundation of Middle Eastern Studies in Japan, to promote academic exchange between Japan and the Middle East, especially Lebanon and to support young Japanese researchers of Middle Eastern Studies. The Center has flourished under the directorship of Professor Hidemitsu Kuroki into a thriving center for exchange between Japan and the Middle East.