

中東調査会設立60周年記念、駐日中東諸国大使との新年懇親会における
林外務大臣挨拶

令和5年2月1日

Mr. SASAKI Mikio, Chairman of the Middle East Institute of Japan, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to attend this reception today. First of all, let me offer my heartfelt congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Middle East Institute of Japan.

Since its establishment, the Institute has made great contribution to promoting understanding of the Middle East in Japan through various activities, not least its quality research.

The reports published by the Institute, notably “The Journal of Middle Eastern Studies,” are regularly read by many MOFA officials.

As Prime Minister Kishida mentioned, we assumed the Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council and the G7 Presidency. So this year is extremely important for Japan’s diplomacy.

The international community is on the verge of fragmentation due to Russia’s aggression against Ukraine. Under these circumstances, it has become ever more important to uphold international law including the principles of the UN Charter, such as prohibition of the threat or use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Last month, I hosted a ministerial-level open debate of the Security Council on the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law at the UN Headquarters in New York.

In that meeting, I stressed that only under the rule of law can all countries be free from fear of brute force, and it is high time for the international community to unite for the rule of law.

My appeal was echoed by many participants, including those from the Middle East.

I believe the significance of upholding the rule of law resonates especially with the people in the Middle East, a region that has gone through utter violence and pains, time and again.

The situation in Ukraine is not somebody else' s problem.

Now is the time for the international community to speak up in one voice.

At the same time, we also need to continue efforts toward realizing Middle East peace based on a “two-state solution.”

As Foreign Minister, I will continue to engage in dialogues with my counterparts in the Middle East, and lead Japan' s diplomacy that will contribute to peace and stability of the international community.

I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing the Middle East Institute of Japan many more successful years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to deepen our intellectual exchanges with the Institute and count on your wisdom as we develop foreign policies.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask the distinguish guests to consider collaboration with the Institute to enrich your own activities. Such interaction will, to the best of my belief, bring a fresh perspective to the future of this invaluable think-tank.

Thank you.