

Japanese Researchers from Tokyo University Visit LERC

March 23, 2016

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The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) welcomed on March 23, 2016, Drs. Udo Satoshi and Kaoru Yamamoto from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), Japan. The Tokyo University of Foreign Studies is primarily devoted to foreign language, international affairs, and foreign studies.



(from left) Dr. Yamamoto with Ms. Haddad at the LERC Museum, NDU (March 2016)

Dr. Yamamoto lectures at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Literature from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 2002. She has published many articles on both classical and modern Arabic literature, and translated several Arabic novels and poems into Japanese. As a member of the research team of a project titled, “*Lebanese and Syrian Migrants*,” led by Prof. Hidemitsu Kuroki at TUFS, she conducts research on Lebanese diaspora literature .

The visit included an introduction to the LERC, its staff, and its activities. The introduction was followed by a sit down with Senior Indexer and Archivist Ms. Liliane Haddad who gave a comprehensive overview of the Lebanese Emigration Archive and Database (LEAD).



(from left) Dr. Satoshi with Ms. Haddad at the LERC Museum, NDU (March 2016)

The researchers were mainly interested in the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. They were particularly interested in the Syrian migrants who fled to Lebanon during the Syrian civil war. Drs. Satoshi and Yamamoto's previous research also involved migration from Lebanon and its causes and consequences, which they discussed with LERC Director Dr. Guita Hourani.

To conclude their visit, the researchers were given a tour of the LERC Museum.

Both researchers were highly impressed by the material, activities, and efforts of the Center, and were also impressed by the fact that it is the sole research center of its kind in the world.