



★2022年7月～9月の予定★

【事務所関係者】

アンマン勤務

(JICAヨルダン事務所内)

- 涌井 純二 所長(ヨルダン事務所長兼務)
- 柳 竜也 次長(ヨルダン事務所次長兼務)
- 大桑 京子 職員(ヨルダン事務所兼務)
- 洲鎌 かおり 職員(ヨルダン事務所兼務)
- 高島 淳 企画調査員
- 岩井 隆志 企画調査員
- 林 芽衣 企画調査員

【公休日】

- 7月10～13 犠牲祭休暇
- *イスラム暦のため変更の可能性あり

「アハバール・カシオン」 ～名前の由来について～

「アハバール」とはNewsを意味するアラビア語。「カシオン」とはダマスカスの北に位置する旧約聖書にも記されている山の名前です。

◇アハバール・カシオンのバックナンバーは以下URLよりご覧いただけます。
<https://www.jica.go.jp/syria/office/others/newsletter.html>

●事務所から

2011年4月28日以降の関係者国外退避に伴い、JICAシリア事務所は現在JICAヨルダン事務所内に日本人所員執務所を設けています。

本号では、下記活動をご紹介します。

- 人事異動: 離任のご挨拶 / 宮原前所長
着任のご挨拶 / 涌井新所長
- 事業報告: シリア活動報告: 「Hydroponics: A better way to grow food」
- 事業報告: シリア事業報告: 「平和への架け橋・人材育成プログラム(JISR)」
- レポート: 世界難民の日特集 :シリア手芸品職人 (Tribalogy)
- レポート: 「Lebanon's Slide into Collapse」

●人事異動:

離任のご挨拶 / 宮原前所長

2022年6月をもちましてJICAシリア事務所所長の任を解かれることになりました。約3年前の2019年3月に赴任した当初はシリアの状況もだいたい落ち着きつつあり、自分としてはシリア出張も夢ではないと感じていました。しかし、2020年当初からコロナ禍が始まり、2020年3月以降はコロナ対応に多くの時間と労力を割られることとなりました。勤務地であるヨルダンの厳しいロックダウン措置、前代未聞の関係者の大量一時帰国や再赴任があり、また、シリアにおいては経済制裁により既に大きなダメージを受けていた医療分野への影響に加えてワクチンも入手困難で、JICA関係者の健康と安全を守ることを第一の目標に動かざるを得なかったという状況でした。そのような中、各種調査や研修員同窓会のフォローアップ事業等を、遅れが生じた部分があったものの着実に実施できたのは、シリアに残る現地職員の奮闘や関係者の熱意の賜物と感じています。

シリア自身もこの期間、アサド大統領が徐々にその足場を固め、中国やロシアの支援も大幅に増加しました。一方、ウクライナ危機の影響で、既に大きなダメージを受けている経済は危険水域に達し、毎週ダマスカスから届けられる生活状況に胸が痛みました。



写真: 宮原前所長

3年を終わってみれば自分に一体何ができたのだろうか、と思わないこともありませんが、いよいよポストコロナ時代に突入する中、新たな方向性を新たな所長の下で突き進んでいただければと思います。関係者の皆様には殆どお会いすることができませんでしたが、またいつかどこかで一緒できる日が来ることを楽しみに待っています。

3年間、本当にありがとうございました。

(前所長:宮原千絵)

●人事異動:

着任のご挨拶 / 涌井新所長

6月より、宮原所長の後任として赴任しました涌井と申します。よろしくお願いいたします。

同じくヨルダン事務所長との兼務ですが、ヨルダンには2度目の赴任です。前回は2013年から2017年にかけての4年半おりました。当時はシリア危機が始まってそれほど経っていない頃で、ヨルダンの北部に大量の難民が押し寄せ、ザータリ難民キャンプに最大約12万人もが滞在していた時期でした。そのザータリへの隊員派遣が開始され、彼ら・彼女らの支援を円滑に進めるために、また安全を確保するために、キャンプ内の拠点の確保やスタッフの常駐など、両事務所に対応に追われました(最も大変だったのはもちろん隊員の方々でした)。またヨルダン北部の「ホストコミュニティ」にも難民が多く暮らすようになり、水需要や廃棄物の増大が問題になったところ、その支援のための案件形成や実現が大きな課題でした。

ザータリはアンマンから半日でも往復できますが、業務から戻ってきて、ほんの数時間前まで目の前に広がっていたキャンプの光景と、何事もないアンマン市内や自宅の日常とのギャップに、いろいろ考えさせられた日々でした。私自身は業務でもプライベートでもシリアに渡航したことはないのですが、過去にシリアで業務をしたことのある方々が一様に、ほとんど全員といっても良いかも知れませんが、シリアを、シリア人を非常に愛していることがとても印象的でした。時々、アンマンで障害者のある難民の方々の活動にも出させて貰ったのですが、JICAの伝統的な援助スキームではカバーしにくいステータスが歯がゆく、担当の所員や企画調査員の努力や工夫に申し訳ない思いも持ちながら任期終了となりました。



写真: 涌井新所長

今回シリア事務所長を拝命いたしました。状況は変わっているようで、しかし全体的に歯がゆい思いは変わらないようにも見受けられます。シリアの人々の将来にとって役立てるよう出来るだけの活動は行いたいと考えますところ、皆様方のご支援を賜れば大変ありがたく存じます。

(新所長: 涌井純二)

●事業報告:

シリア活動報告: 「Hydroponics: A Better Way to Grow Food」



When JICA Alumni Association in Syria (JAAS) agreed with members from the General Commission for Scientific Agriculture Research (GCSAR) to implement Hydroponics project, I would not have imagined its importance. I had heard and read about this technology before, but it was the first time that I saw it myself in action and when the crops started to grow.

As a JICA staff I accompanied JAAS

members to the project site in Shaba'a in Rural Damascus where we met with the project Director Dr. Ayman Hijazi and agricultural engineers working there together with JAAS/GCSAR member Engineer Ms. Rahaf Shakko.

Upon arrival, the director and the staff showed us around the hydroponics greenhouse and started explaining us about the technical aspects.

Dr. Hijazi said: "Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil and uses less water than traditional soil-based systems allowing for faster growth of crops and higher yields." He showed us some of the planted crops included lettuces, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplants, cabbages...

He explained that the project benefited from the equipment provided by JAAS such as tanks, pumps, gauges, timers, pipes solar system and others. He said: "without JAAS cooperation GCSAR would not have been able to implement the first project of its kind in Syria". He explained about the advantages of such technology with such enthusiasm: "Up to 90% more efficient use of water. Production increases 3 to 10 times in the same amount of space. Many crops can be produced twice as fast in a well-managed hydroponic system".



写真: 左右 水耕栽培の様子

As a pilot project in Syria, Dr. Hijazi talked about his experience in this field: "It turned from a mere idea to a tangible reality. I was first keen to conduct an in-depth research on the internet to see the research and studies on this type of agriculture, whether in the Arab world or abroad. Cooperation with JAAS helped in embodying the ideas and turned it into reality.

When asked about the outcomes of the project after one year of implementation, he answered proudly: “The success of the project is growing technically in their future projects day after day. I can say that 80% of our goals were achieved until today and by this winter 100% will be our score.”

We learned a lot from this experience and paid great efforts to study every single detail to reach such results. That is why in cooperation with my colleagues I’m planning to produce guidelines about “Hydroponics Agriculture” that can help in family farming where we can provide them with the appropriate solutions, seedlings and fertilizers, due to the lack of any specialized company that may have a special hydroponics nutrient component with instructions for its use.”

About future aspirations for the development of the project, Dr. Ayman said: “This experience started to attract many of those working in the field of agriculture, agricultur-

al engineers and owners of nurseries or farmers and their families, so we submitted a proposal to JAAS for 2022 again to support a new project in another station where we will add a fish tank to take advantage of the organic waste to be used as a fertilizer.”

I myself was proud to be part of the success of this project, as I fully understand the difficult situation my country is facing where food and water must be secured and provided to people fairly. At the end of our visit we could not hide the feelings of admiration for the work while thanking the staff working in the site for the hard efforts they paid to make this pilot project a role model that will encourage other organizations to consider using this efficient

(Senior Project Officer, Marah Morad)

写真: 上 キュウリの葉
下 水圧の調整



●事業報告:

シリア事業報告: 「平和への架け橋・人材育成プログラム(JISR)」

A great opportunity is being offered by the Japanese government to young Syrians every year since 2017. The Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR) enables gifted young refugee students to pursue a Master’s degree at Japanese universities. The vision of this program is a future where Syrians are able to contribute efficiently to the reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts in Syria. Giving access to higher education in Japan for Syrians is central to achieving this vision.

This is why in May 2016 the Japanese government announced that Japan would accept around 100 Syrians as students over five years with the aim of offering educational opportunities to Syrian youths who will contribute to Syria's future reconstruction when it takes place.

Against this backdrop, the program JISR was created in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for providing higher education opportunities at

a Master's degree level at Japanese universities to Syrian refugees who reside in neighboring countries, and after successful implementation for five years, JICA now decided to extend the program until 2024 and the recruitment for the 6th batch has now started.

Higher education for refugees not only helps the scholars but their families and the whole community. It paves the way for employment and realizes their potential to actively contribute to their local economies when they return home.

(Local consultant: Rawan Salhi)

JISR updates on JICA website:

- ◇ [第1期生 家族とともに、新天地で社会人へ | シリア | 中東 | 各国における取り組み - JICA](#)
- ◇ [JISR: 人生を変える機会を求めて日本へ | シリア | 中東 | 各国における取り組み - JICA](#)

●レポート:

世界難民の日特集: シリア手芸品職人 (Tribalogy)



写真: 製作の様子

I am Samah from Syria and I have been living in Zarqa, Jordan with my 4 children and husband since 2013. We were a happy family living in Damascus, but we had to flee our home due to the war which started in our country in 2011, and our lives changed dramatically.

I always loved sewing since I was a child, so I spent a lot of time watching my mother work as she was a professional tailor and she was constantly telling me that "sewing would always be a useful skill". I never imagined that one day it would come to mean so much, and provide me with a small income until I started sewing some outfits in my home where my real career has started.

In 2014, I heard about free courses offered by an NGO, providing some psychosocial support for refugee women, so I enrolled myself and attended, many different classes such as embroidery, crochet and sewing. There was so much to learn from each course and every day we did something different. It was very interesting and entertaining, I also made some new friends. I was very eager to learn new skills and improving my skills allowed me to occupy my mind; it taught me not to focus on the sad negative memories from the past. It was obvious for my trainer that I was so motivated in the project so they offered me to work to become one of the main tailors at Tribalogy, a locally registered organization that offers training and employment opportunities to the vulnerable refugee women in Jordan through creative handi-



crafts. In 2020, as Covid-19 Emergency response program, Tribalogy and JICA collaborated together in order to train 30 refugee women and to produce 6000 facemasks which were later donated to the refugee camps.

What I learned from this experience was that working in something you love, does not only help to earn money but also it helps to learn how to be beneficial and positive in this society. I am thankful that I was lucky enough to realize my potentials and capabilities by using my own hands to create something beautiful.

写真: トライバロジー商品

(Artisan: Samah Outani)

●レポート:

Lebanon's Slide into Collapse



Walking around Gemmeyzeh and Mar Mkhael's fully packed restaurants and pubs on a Saturday night, one can hardly believe that this is a country witnessing an economic collapse and whose crisis was rated by the World Bank as one of the three most severe since the mid-19th century. A quick look away from the brightly lit venues, however, and one notices the dark unlit alleyways, the reduced traffic and closed shops. In Lebanon, as in elsewhere, poverty is silent and invisible.

Lebanon has always been a country of steep inequality, exacerbated by inefficient fiscal policy and a rentier economy that did little to create employment. In October 2019, when street protests erupted against this economic and political model that was mired in corruption and nepotism, commercial banks, who were already struggling with liquidity, quickly closed for 2 weeks, and when they did open, they installed unofficial capital controls that erased trust in the local currency. In March 2020, Lebanon defaulted on its foreign debt for the first time in its history, cutting the country's access to financial markets. The final blow came in August 4, 2020 with the Beirut Port explosion that claimed over 200 lives and destroyed large swathes of the city. Add to this the burden of hosting 2 million refugees for a country of 4 million and you can begin to understand the depth of the problem.

Delay of reforms and the lack of political leadership may have contributed to the economy and local currency collapse. Current figures estimate a loss of USD 72 Billion in the banking sector, and the Central Bank's foreign reserves are now down to around USD 10 Billion in obligatory 'cannot-be-used' reserves. Unofficial capital controls by commercial banks have locked Lebanese depositors out of their hard earned savings as the banks restrict weekly cash withdrawals and pay back these Dollar deposits at less than 30% of their market value.

So how do the Lebanese survive a devaluation of over 95%, knowing that Lebanon imports over 80% of its food and all its energy needs? Inequality becomes more pronounced, in favour of those with access to hard currency, while others try to seek employment abroad. It is estimated that there are around 2 million Lebanese expatriates, and their capital inflows to family members amount to around USD 7-8 Billion annually. The fully crowded touristic venues are filled with expatriates, and this summer, airline bookings forecast over 1 million tourists. Companies with access to international markets are slowly adjusting salaries with small "fresh Dollar" bonuses. The hardest hit are public sector employees, paid in local currency, and whose salaries can hardly pay for their daily commute. Yet,

写真左: 電気不足が続くベイルートの夜景
(提供: <https://twitter.com/EFerzli/status/1536260281713807360>)

写真右: 賑やかなベイルートの様子

many continue their duties, out of patriotism and a sense of service, even when the lack of internet service, power supply and basic stationary items makes their work impossible.

As the shortage in hard currency is exacerbated, basic public services come to a slow halt: Electricite du Liban cannot provide more than one hour of power due to rising fuel costs, the garbage is picked up infrequently for the same reason, passports are issued in limited numbers as their printing is done abroad and needs hard currency, internet quality falters as essential repairs cannot be done, water supply is limited as pumping stations require electric power and spare parts, hospitals are cutting bed capacity to save on fuel and due to staff shortages (brain drain), critical drugs and vaccinations are out of stock... The Lebanese are known for their resilience, and this crisis is an ultimate test of endurance and solidarity within community members. Authorities need to agree on a rescue plan and implement economic reforms to help the country steer out of its multiple crises.

(Local Coordinator: Zeina Helou)

ホームページ
www.jica.go.jp/syria/index.html

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お知らせ
アハバール・カシオンへのご寄稿、ご感想およびお問い合わせは、メールで受け付けています。

編集後記
皆さま、もうすぐイード休暇ですね。久しぶりにごゆっくりと満喫して下さい。(林芽衣)