

**Japan Platform(JPF) / UNHCR
Co-Organised Symposium
Syria Crisis: Meeting the Humanitarian Needs and the Role of Japan**

Date & Time: 03 August 2013 (Sat), 14:00-16:30

Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, United Nations University

Organisers: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Japan / Japan Platform (JPF)

Languages: English and Japanese (simultaneous translation available)

Supporters: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (TBC)

Registration: For participation, please register from UNHCR website

(<http://www.unhcr.or.jp/html/2013/07/syriasympo-130703.html>)

Since March 2011, over 1.6 million Syrian refugees have been displaced and hosted in neighbouring countries. By the end of 2013, it is estimated that half of the population of Syria will be in need of humanitarian assistance, including an anticipated 3.45 million Syrian refugees and 6.8 million Syrians inside the country as well as half a million of Palestinian refugees. As António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, stated that the “Syria conflict is, without a doubt, the one with the most dangerous regional and global impact on peace and security, and the worst humanitarian consequences, we have faced in a very long time.”

The governments in the region are feeling the strain, with public services stretched to their limits. In response to this humanitarian crisis, UNHCR and Japan Platform have been implementing humanitarian assistance operations for both displaced populations and host communities. On 7 June 2013 the United Nations asked donor countries for US\$ 5.2 billion to help alleviate the suffering of millions of forcibly displaced population inside and outside Syria. This is the largest humanitarian appeal in history. 7 member NGOs of Japan Platform are operating assistance projects in the field according to the local needs. Japan has generously made humanitarian and financial contributions for this humanitarian crisis.

The objectives of the symposium are three-fold: first, to raise public awareness of the ongoing humanitarian crisis; second, to understand the complex background of the current crisis in Syria; and third, to discuss the role of Japan and civil society in meeting the humanitarian needs as well as finding solutions. We are looking forward to your participation.



Syrian refugee children take shelter against the cold and fog shortly after arriving in Jordan early in the morning in November 2012. © UNHCR / B. Sokol.

Tentative Programme (14:00-16:30)

Registration: 13:30

Opening Remarks and Guest Speeches (14:00-14:15)

MC: Mr. Noriyuki Shiina, Secretary-General, Japan Platform

Opening Remarks (14:00)

- Ms. Keiko Kiyama, Chairperson Board of Directors, Japan Platform

Guest Speeches (14:05-14:15)

- MOFA (TBC)
- MP. Yuriko Koike, House of Representatives (President of Parliamentary League for Syrian Refugees)

Part 1: Keynote Speech “What is Happening in Syria) (14:15-14:40)

- Background of Syria Crisis: Prof. Hidemitsu Kuroki, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- Humanitarian Situation and Needs of Displaced Population in Neighbouring Countries and Syria: Mr. Johan Cels, UNHCR Representative in Japan

Part 2: Panel Discussion “Debriefing from the Field / Meeting the Humanitarian Needs – the Role of Japan” (14:40-16:25)

- Moderator: Prof. Misako Kaji, University of Tokyo (Former Deputy Director-General, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

“Debriefing from the Field” (14:40-15:10)

- Iraq: Mr. Kei Fukagawa, Field Coordinator, Peace Winds Japan Iraq Mission
- Jordan: Mr. Hiroshi Sasaki, Jordan office, Program officer, JEN
- Lebanon: Ms. Mana Miyawaki, Program officer, Overseas program division, Save the Children Japan
- Turkey: Mr. Yoshifumi Kagehira, Programme Coordinator, Association for Aid and Relief Japan

Panel Discussion: “Meeting the Humanitarian Needs – the Role of Japan” (15:10-16:25 including Q&A Session)

- H.E.Mr. Mohammed El Dib, Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Lebanon in Japan
- Mr. Kansuke Nagaoka, Director, First Middle East Division, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, MOFA
- Mr. Norimasa Orii, Secretary-General, Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO)
- Prof. Hidemitsu Kuroki, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- Mr. Johan Cels, UNHCR Representative in Japan

Closing Remarks (16:25-16:30)

- Mr. Johan Cels, UNHCR Representative in Japan

■About “Japan Platform (JPF)”

Japan Platform (JPF) is an international emergency humanitarian aid organization which offers more effective and prompter emergency aid, in response to the world situation, focusing on issues of refugees and natural disaster. JPF conducts such aid with a tripartite cooperation system where NGOs, business community, and government of Japan work in close cooperation, based on equal partnership, making the most of the respective sectors’ characteristics and resources.

JPF has operated activities in more than 40 areas, 830 projects, and the total amount of budget for the emergency aid reaches to 287.6million USD (27.2 billion Yen) from 2000 to January 2013. JPF is working closely with 40 member NGOs. At the activities in Tohoku area after the earthquake (total budget: 72.7million USD (6.9 billion Yen)), JPF also supports local NPOs as well as member NGOs.

■Contact Information

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