English Summary

Islam & Information-Telecommunication Technology

Idea behind the Conference

Located on the periphery of Europe, Islam is one of the heirs to Greco-Roman civilization and stood at the forefront of world history until the dawn of the modern age. As late as the early sixteenth century, on the first circumnavigation of the globe, Magellan's fleet was astonished to find Muslims all over the distant islands of Southeast Asia.

Yet for most people today Islamic science and culture remain an enigma, even though Islam helped lay the foundations of modern scientific knowledge in such wide-ranging fields as philosophy, natural sciences and medicine.

The contemporary Islamic world exhibits great tolerance and diversity in terms of various dimensions — a perspective we are prone to overlook. For example, young Muslims display amazing openness and receptiveness. But graphic media coverage of the devastating Mideast conflict with Israel tends to blind us to such things. What impact are modern advances in technology, including IT, having on the underpinnings of Islamic society, economic activity and culture

Last year's inaugural symposium stirred up interest in the Muslim world, which accounts for almost a fifth of the Earth's six billion people, with discussion on how an Islam seemingly stuck in the past is coming to terms with today's IT revolution. This year's symposium will go one step further by exploring, within the context of contemporary world history, the very real effects that innovations in information technology are having on Muslim society and economic and cultural life.

Opening Remarks
Opening Address, University and Guest Speeches

Overall Moderator

Toshiharu KITAMURA

Born in Yamanashi Prefecture in 1943, Toshiharu Kitamura is Professor at the Global Information and Telecommunication Institute of the Graduate School of Waseda University. An alumnus of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Tokyo, he also holds a graduate degree from Oxford University. As an official with the Japanese Ministry of Finance and the International Monetary Fund IMF , he has overseen many areas of economic policy. In particular he has done extensive research on finance in Japan and other advanced economies, as well as in the developing world and countries in the midst of transition to market economy. He is also an active participant in international debate on these issues. His chief publications include *Oriental Trade* and *Central Asian Economies* in Japanese .

Opening Address

Hideyoshi TOMINAGA

Born in Tokyo in 1939, Hideyoshi Tominaga, who holds a doctorate in engineering, is Professor with the Department of Electronics, information and Communication Engineering, School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University. He also heads the University's Global Information and Telecommunication Institute GITI , chairs Subcommittee 29 of the Information Processing Society of Japan, and is in overall charge of the Telecommunications Advancement Organization of Japan Waseda Research Center. Professor Tominaga, who completed his degree at Waseda University's

Graduate School of Science and Engineering , is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Career Achievement Award of the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers, the Electronic Imaging Association's Prize for Best Paper, the ITU Association of Japan Award, the Information Technology Month Prize presented by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, and the 1998 Ericsson Telecommunication Award.

University Speech
Katsuhiko SHIRAI

Born in Dalian in 1939, Katsuhiko Shirai, the holder of a doctorate in engineering, is Professor with Waseda University's School of Science and Engineering. He took his degree at the Graduate School of Science and Engineering of Waseda University. An expert in knowledge information processing, he is engaged in research on human machine interface, especially technology for recognizing and synthesizing speech, natural language processing, design of signal conditioning architecture, and CAI. His major publications include *The Science of Language: Phonetics* in Japanese .

Guest Speech
Mahmoud KAREM

Mahmoud Karem is Ambassador of Egypt to Japan. Holder of Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of South Carolina in the United States, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt in 1975. He has been a lecturer at the Institute for Diplomatic Studies for Arab and African Diplomats and Assistant Professor at the American University in Cairo. Dr. Karem has also served as Deputy Chief of Mission of Egyptian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and been in charge of disarmament issues and peaceful usesage of nuclear energy at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

Guest Speech
Yohei KONO

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1937, Yohei Kono is a veteran member of Japan's House of Representatives and chairs the Japan-UK Parliamentary League, the Japan-Thailand Parliamentarian League and the Japan-Hungary Friendship Society. A graduate of the Department of Economics, School of Political Science & Economics, Waseda University, he has served twelve consecutive terms in the Diet. During his career he has held numerous posts, including Chairman of the New Liberal Club, President of the Liberal Democratic Party, Director General of the Science and Technology Agency, Chief Cabinet Secretary, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Kono has received decorations from such countries as Norway and Brazil. As Foreign Minister he took the initiative in setting up a Study Group on Islam within the Ministry.

Michael C. HUDSON   Prof. Dr., Georgetown University

Michael C. Hudson is Professor of International Relations and Seif Ghobash Professor of Arab Studies in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington. Holder of a Ph.D. in political science from Yale University, he previously served as Director of the University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies and President of the Middle East Studies Association. His research interests include democratization, regional security in the Middle East and the Mideast conflict. Dr. Hudson has been the recipient of Guggenheim and Ford Foundation fellowships. He also conducted research at Sana University under a Fulbright senior fellowship until the outbreak of civil war in Yemen in 1994.

Summary

In the aftermath of the September 11th attacks there is renewed debate in the United States about the origins, capacities, intentions and future of militant Islamist movements. Did September 11th represent an escalation and deepening of political Islam or, on the contrary, does it mark "the last gasp" of a project that has suffered many setbacks during the 1990s

The answer requires looking first at the structure and support base of Islamist organizations. It is proposed that Islamist activists and politicians have been adept in developing network forms of organization to advance their agendas. They have also taken advantage of the capacity-generating potential of the new information technologies, notably satellite TV and the Internet, to enhance their networks and to create the support base in key sectors of public opinion and government that enables networks to survive and even flourish.

Secondly it is important to analyze the extent of socioeconomic stagnation and governmental authoritarianism in order to appreciate the forces that drive reformist political Islam. To be sure, governments in the Islamic societies, and especially the Arab countries, are energetic in utilizing information technologies and other means to combat the Islamist challenge; but the manifest societal problems facing these governments offer incessant opportunities for Islamic essentialism, it is important to recognize that Islamic symbolism can be manipulated to generate a powerful ideological resource and that networked organization, enhanced by new information technologies, can significantly challenge even the most formidable authoritarian states.

The third element in the equation — or shall we call it a wild card   — is the powerful but unpredictable influence of the United States on the Islamic world, especially since September 11th. The Bush Administration's "war on terrorism" increasingly has taken on the character of a war against Islam in general and the Arabs in particular, despite its protests to the contrary. In a globalized, monocentric strategic world, can the United States as some of its influential neoconservatives urge "rescue" an Islamic world that has been "hijacked" by Islamist extremists   Is there a risk that the effort to liberalize and democratize Islamic countries for the purpose of eliminating the "terrorist threat" to the Unite States will backfire and actually benefit the Islamist radicals

Tsugitaka SATO   Prof. Dr., The University of Tokyo

Born in Yokohama in 1942, Tsugitaka Sato is Professor at the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology of the University of Tokyo and Research Department head of the Toyo Bunko library. He holds a DLitt from the University of Tokyo. After graduating from the Faculty of Letters of the University of Tokyo, he served as research associate at the University's Institute of Oriental Culture and associate professor at Ochanomizu University before assuming his present post. Professor Sato, who is also leader of the Islamic Area Studies project 1997-2002 , specializes in Arab and Islamic history. His chief publications include *The Medieval Islamic State and Arab Society, The Mamluks, The Legend of the Sufi Saint Ibrahim* all in Japanese and *State and Rural Society in Medieval Islam,* which was awarded the Japan Academy Prize and Imperial Prize.

Summary

What technological innovations made possible the rise of Islamic civilization   With the emergence of vast Muslim territories in the wake of the Arab conquests, a tight-knit network developed linking the great cities of Isfahan, Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo. This network was more than merely a series of intersecting transportation routes. It was a web of arteries through which coursed the lifeblood of Muslim civilization in the form of flows of people, goods and information — armies on the march, merchants selling their wares, pilgrims on their way to Mecca, scholars in search of knowledge. This organic network facilitated technological innovation and allowed the resulting knowledge to be rapidly disseminated throughout the Islamic world.

Technology advanced on virtually every front. Improvements in irrigation techniques made possible widespread cultivation of sugar cane and fueled an expansion in sugar production. Cotton plantations and orchards proliferated. Production of cotton, silk and woolen garments soared, and textiles came to be adorned with arabesque designs. The introduction of papermaking techniques led to the building of paper mills. Ceramics were developed that featured the characteristic Islamic three-color glaze, an effect achieved using iron and copper. Artisans manufactured enameled glass that sparkled with an iridescent sheen. The driving force behind these technical advances was the intellectual energy of the young Muslim world: its unquenchable thirst for new knowledge as manifested in its willingness to learn from the advanced neighboring civilizations of Greece, Iran, Persia and China and to make their heritage its own. And then there was Arabic itself, the language of the Koran, which made its power felt in innumerable writings and translations.

The use of Arabic numerals including zero and the spread of paper were also major catalysts behind advances in scholarship and technology. The replacement of parchment and papyrus with paper brought about a revolution in every field of endeavor, from economic activity and government administration to the cultural sphere. Paper was a cheaper and far more lightweight medium than parchment on which to keep records, whether a copy of a contract, an edict from the caliph to a local governor or the writings of the ulema Muslim scholars collectively . Meanwhile the growth in sugar production made possible by the spread of sugar cane to southern Iraq and Syria, Egypt, the Maghrib and Andalusia during the tenth to the twelfth century gave a distinctive quality to the Islamic diet and Muslim religious and medical

practices. Sugar-filled cakes were made for the end of fasting and the Prophet's birthday, and sugar was administered as a remedy for sore throat, pain in the joints and lethargy. In exploring the role of technical innovation in Islamic history, I would like to focus in particular on paper and sugar as they relate to transmission of knowledge, economic life and the Muslim diet.

Coordinator/ Shuji HOSAKA   Lecturer, National Defense Academy
Panelists/ So HASEGAWA
Visiting Associate Prof., Institute of Egyptology, Waseda University
Hirofumi TANADA   Prof. Dr., Waseda University
Dale F. EICKELMAN   Prof. Dr., Dartmouth College

Shuji HOSAKA

Born in Tokyo in 1957, Shuji Hosaka holds a Master's degree from Keio University and lectures at the National Defense Academy. Before assuming his present post he was a researcher with the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the Middle East Institute of Japan and director of the JSPS Research Station, Cairo. He is also a visiting researcher at Waseda University's Institute of Egyptology and a sessional lecturer at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Mr. Hosaka specializes in research on the Arabian Peninsula. His publications include *Beggars and Islam* and *Identity: Osama bin Laden's Holy War* both in Japanese .

Topic Summary/ Shaaban Abdel-Rahim, Pokemon and McDonald's

Since the 1980s Japanese TV programs have gained an audience in the Islamic world, and since the 1990s Japanese video games have enjoyed popularity there as well. In consequence Japanese and Muslim children have, for the first time in history, come to share a common culture at the secular level. But the flow of information is all one way. The Islamic world needs to stake out a distinct identity for itself within the context of globalism while contributing to IT by disseminating universal values that transcend cultural boundaries.

So HASEGAWA

Born in Aichi Prefecture in 1958, So Hasegawa holds an MA from Waseda University and is Visiting Associate Professor of the Institute of Egyptology, Waseda University. He is currently excavating the New Kingdom necropolis at Dahshur in Egypt. An expert in society of late antiquity, he is especially interested in the development of medieval Islamic culture as reflected in everyday life. Professor Hasegawa's books include *The Archeology of Villages and Social Organization: The Transition from Coptic to Islamic Society* and *Invitation to Mediterranean Archeology* both in Japanese .

Topic Summary/ Cultural Dynamism and the Role of Information in the Rise of Islam

Cultural artifacts from the period of Islam's rise give a hint of the social dynamism out of which sprang medieval Islamic culture. For the first two or three centuries of Muslim rule in Egypt the culture of the era of Byzantine ascendancy remained deeply rooted in daily life. But then, all of a sudden, people began to cast off the old traditions. I identify one of the sources of Islamic society's restless energy, taking as a case in point how Muslims reacted to information from the outside world in the frontier region of Egypt.

Hirofumi TANADA

Born in Fukuoka in 1949, Hirofumi Tanada holds a doctorate in human sciences and is Professor, School of Human Sciences at Waseda University. He also heads the Changing Society and Quality of Life project being conducted at the University's Advanced Research Center for Human Sciences. A graduate of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, he was a guest researcher at the Egyptian National Center for Social and Criminological Research 1991-1992 and the Social Research Center at the American University in Cairo 1998-1999. An expert in sociology, Professor Tanada studies urbanization and aging in Egypt, Malaysia and other countries. He is author of *Urban Society in Egypt* in Japanese.

Topic Summary/ Information Media in Islamic Society

Taking modern Egypt as an example, I examine the various types of information media that link city and countryside and consider their impact on society. Here I interpret the term "information media" in its broad sense to refer to any means of communicating something to others — not just newspapers, magazines and television but also coffee shops and migrant associations established by the people from the same town or region. These forms of media all act as a method of interaction and communication between individuals, and I focus on the past, present and future of urbanization in the Egyptian capital of Cairo and the migrants from rural villages who dwell there.

Dale F. EICKELMAN

Dale F. Eickelman is Professor of Anthropology at Dartmouth College. After obtaining an MA in Islamic studies from McGill University in 1967 and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1971, he served as Professor of Anthropology at New York University between 1978 and 1985. In 1992 he was awarded an honorary degree by Dartmouth College. Since the late 1960s Dr. Eickelman has been a leading researcher across a wide range of fields encompassing the Middle East, North Africa and the Arabian peninsula. He is the author of numerous books including *New Media in the Muslim World* and *The Middle East and Central Asia.*

Topic Summary/ Religious Authority and the New Media in the Middle East

The new media — fax machines, satellite television, and the Internet — and the new uses of older media — cassettes, pulp fiction, the cinema, the telephone, and the press — increasingly shape ideas of religious authority and community in the Muslim Middle East. Increasingly, the new communications technologies facilitate new forms of community, public space, and identity that are often at odds with state authorities and conventional religious leaders. Some of these media are aimed at elite audiences, while others pervade a more popular level. Many of the "small" and "alternative" media have a close association with the growing ranks of educated Muslims, and they accelerate an awareness of intergenerational change. Just as printing and newspapers played a major role in forging new senses of community in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, today's new media create new spaces for public comment and discussion that transcend local and state frontiers. At the same time, they give new life to local identities and reshape understandings of gender, authority, social justice, civility, responsibility, and minority rights and identities.

Coordinator/ Toshiharu KITAMURA Prof., Waseda University
Panelists/ Ukeru MAGOSAKI Prof., National Defense Academy
M. Hakan YAVUZ Assistant Prof. Dr., University of Utah
Yoshiki HATANAKA
Director, Energy and Environment Program, International Development Center of Japan

Toshiharu KITAMURA P2
Topic Summary/ Telecommunications: A Catalyst for Economic Development in the Islamic World

During the late 1990s the IT revolution seemed to sweep all before it, but by 2001 it became apparent that the bubble was bursting. The United States and other developed economies are still reeling from the aftereffects. Even so, technological advances in IT and other fields are making their impact steadily felt in every corner of the globe. Our discussions will revolve around presentations by three authorities. Professor Magosaki of Japan's National Defense Academy has a profound knowledge of international strategic issues, including economic questions. Assistant professsor Yavuz of the University of Utah is currently engaged in research on socio-political issues. Mr. Hatanaka is Director of the Energy and Environment Program at the International Development Center of Japan and an expert on environmental and energy issues in the Middle East.

Ukeru MAGOSAKI

Born in Manchuria in 1943, Ukeru Magosaki is Professor of Public Policy at the National Defense Academy. While still a student he left the Faculty of Law at the University of Tokyo to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he went on to head the Intelligence and Analysis Bureau. He later served as ambassador to Uzbekistan and Iran. He has also been posted to such countries as Russia, the UK, Canada and Iraq. Professor Magosaki spent much of his time with the Foreign Ministry engaged in intelligence and analysis work. His books include *Lessons from Canada* and *Japanese Diplomacy: Testimony from the Front Lines,* which was awarded the Shichihei Yamamoto Prize both works are in Japanese .

Topic Summary/ Information: A Weapon for Changing Islamic Society

The biggest challenge facing the post-cold-war world is how to achieve coexistence between differing systems of values. A particularly thorny question is whether the value systems of Islamic society and the West can even be harmonized. Iran has a valuable role to play in this regard. Since the Islamic revolution Islamic supremacists have run the country, but recently reformers committed to conciliation with the West have gained influence. These reformists argue that sovereignty lies with the people. The biggest concern of ordinary Iranians is ensuring jobs for young people. Cooperation with the West would make it possible to achieve that goal. As the tug-of-war continues over what course the nation should adopt, economics and politics have become inextricably bound. Access to information is the driving force behind reform. Advances in IT can play a major role.

M. Hakan YAVUZ

M. Hakan Yavuz is Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science at the Middle East Center of the University of Utah. He studied international political science at the University of Ankara in Turkey and did research at the Leonard Davis Institute at the Hebrew University in Israel before going on to obtain his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in 1998. Professor Yavuz received a special award in 2001 as the University of Utah's most outstanding researcher in the field of social behavior. He is author of *Islamic Identity in Turkey* and has written numerous articles on Islamic society.

Topic Summary/ Globalization and the Zones of Islam: The Case of Turkey

I seek a three part examination between the relationship of globalization and Islam: First, it is important to understand the meaning and" workings" of the processes of globalization. I define globalization as a set of socio-political processes that has been accelerated as a result of new technology and economic forces. Thus, two structural aspects of globalizations are the market economy as represented by neo-liberal economic policies and the new digital communication technology. I label them as the" hard aspect" of globalization. I also identify human rights and democracy as representing the" soft aspect" of globalization. Market forces, new technology and new global discourses of democracy and human rights have different impacts on different parts of the world. The main impacts of the globalization have been the two contradictory processes of homogenization and fragmentation. In most of the Arab and Muslim world, the fragmentation aspect is more dominant than homogenization or cooperation. Globalization has created two competing visions of Islam : The extreme examples are that of the liberal and market friendly Islam of Turkey and Malaysia and the" ghetto Islam" of Pakistan and some Arab countries. Muslim reaction to these processes is very much shaped by idiosyncratic local histories and socio-political conditions. Globalization has created three issues: justice, identity, and ethics. Religious traditions are powerful resources to address these issues.

Yoshiki HATANAKA

Born in Tokyo in 1950, Yoshiki Hatanaka is Director of the Energy and Environment Program at the International Development Center of Japan. A graduate of the Faculty of Economics of Keio University, he worked at the Fuji Bank for many years before assuming the post of chief representative at the Cairo office of the Japanese Institute of Middle Eastern Economics. He has also been assistant researcher and later chief researcher at the Institute for International Economic Studies and served as a short-term consultant with the World Bank. His chief writings include *Middle East Development* in Japanese and *Aid Effectiveness in the West Bank and Gaza, Undertaken by The Government of Japan and The World Bank, June 2000.*

Topic Summary/ Islam and IT: Fusion and Conflict

It has only been a few years since the IT sector got off the ground in the Middle East, but already in the Gulf, for example, the number of Internet users is skyrocketing, with the total expected to reach 2.5 million by the end of 2002. The e-commerce market in the Middle East and North Africa is likewise growing at a remarkable pace. Online trade, worth a paltry $100 million in 1999, should balloon to $3 billion by 2003. Despite careful monitoring of and severe restrictions on Internet use for religious and cultural reasons, the IT revolution is having a tremendous impact on the society, economy and politics of the Islamic countries of the Middle East.

Coordinators/ Yoshio YAMASAKI   Prof. Dr., Waseda University
Panelists/ Sakuji YOSHIMURA   Prof. Dr., Waseda University
Shinji MATSUMOTO   Executive Office, Division for Cultural Heritage, UNESCO
Kikuro TAKAGI
Guest Prof., Advanced Research Institute for Science and Engineering,
Waseda University

Yoshio YAMASAKI

Born in Tokyon in 1943, Yoshio Yamasaki is Professor at the Global Information and Technology Institute at Waseda University. Holds a Ph.D. in engineering. Dr. Yamasaki serves in numerous positions including Director of the Institute of Spatial Science for Regional and Global Culture at Waseda University, President of Waseda University's " Participation in UNESCO Cultural and Technology Activities" theme college, Vice Chairman of The Acoustical Society of Japan and Director of The Virtual Reality Society of Japan. Dr. Yamasaki is currently engaged in research and teaching in the areas of acoustics, signal processing, encoding and telecommunications at the School of Science and Engineering at Waseda University, the Science and Engineering Research Institute, Chiba Institute of Technology, The Advanced Research Institute for Science and Engineering at Waseda University, and the Global Information and Technology Institute, among others. Dr. Yamasaki's publications include *Acoustic Systems and Digital Processing* and *Integrated Multimedia Selection Manual MPEG*.

Sakuji YOSHIMURA

Born in Tokyo in 1943, Sakuji Yoshimura, who holds a doctorate in engineering, is Professor of School of Human Sciences and General Director of the Institute of Egyptology, Waseda University. After graduating from Waseda University's School of Literature I, he studied in the Institute of Archeology and Geography in Cairo University. Professor Yoshimura specializes in Egyptian art and archeology and research of comparative civilizations. He first organized an archeological expedition to Egypt from Waseda University in 1966, and has been conducting excavations and research in that country for the over 35 years since. He is a member of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan and the Architectural Institute of Japan. His chief publications include *How to Get Along with the Arabs*, *Lecture Notes on Ancient Egypt* two volumes , *Thirty Years of Excavating in Egypt*, and *Amazing Study of Pyramids and Ancient Egypt* all in Japanese .

Topic Summary/ How Can the Conflict between Culture and Religion Be Resolved

No discussion of cultural heritage and Islam can avoid mention of the tragic destruction of the colossal Buddhas carved on the cliff face of Bamiyan in Afghanistan. After all, the Taliban who perpetrated the deed espouse a form of Islamic fundamentalism. To our ears fundamentalism sounds like the identity of Islam, in which case one might be tempted to conclude that all Muslims approve of the destruction of the Buddhas. The truth is different. We need to go back to the root of the issue.

Shinji MATSUMOTO

Born in Tokyo in 1943, Shinji Matsumoto is in charge of planning with the Executive Office of UNESCO's Division for Cultural Heritage and Guest Professor at the Global Information and Telecommunication Institute of Waseda University. He is a graduate of the Department of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters, University of Tokyo. His career has included a stint at the National Diet Library, where he held the post of senior reader with the Overseas Legislative Information Research Service of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau. He has held a number of posts at UNESCO headquarters, including deputy director of information planning operations, head of overall research planning for the Silk Road project, and director of new technology for culture with the Division for Cultural Heritage. Mr. Matsumoto has written a number of books and articles including *The Library of Ancient Alexandria* in Japanese and "World Heritage and Virtual Reality Technology," which appeared as a guest column in the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper.

Topic Summary/ Information Technology development and Culture

The US government has been reported to be prepared to invest a substantial amount of funds to help diminish the anti-American attitudes of many countries in order to seek the international community's understanding for their fight against terrorism.

On the other hand, a certain number of Arab countries are said to believe that the attacks of 11 September 2001 were a direct result of American Israeli conspiracy. This is of course a very extreme example to put forward. However, the international community is now suffering not from a lack of information but from a deluge of information including misinformation and, in many cases, it is quite difficult for most people to come to some reasonable conclusion in the face of all the material supplied by the press, inter alia.

The competence to pick up the most appropriate information from the flood of information will ultimately rest with "Education". UNESCO's role in the 21st century, in particular in the field of education, should therefore further be strengthened.

Kikuro TAKAGI

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1941, Kikuro Takagi, a journalist, is Guest Professor at Waseda University. After graduating from the Faculty of Literature of Tokyo University he joined the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper, for which he has reported from Beirut, Rome and Cairo. He has also been a member of the paper's New York editorial staff. He was involved in writing the serialized feature "What Kind of Era Was the Twentieth Century?" before retiring in January 2001. An astute observer of Mideast politics, Mr. Takagi has written such books as *The Palestinian Uprising, Reading the Middle East at Century's End,* and *Criminal Report in New York* all in Japanese .

Topic Summary/ UNESCO and the Question of National Sovereignty

Priceless cultural relics have fallen victim to war and terrorism. I visited Jerusalem after seeing the ruins of Angkor Wat, which was ravaged in the Pol Pot era. There is a bulge in the south wall of the Temple Mount Haram ash-Sharif to Muslims , where the holy sites of Judaism and Islam rub shoulders. As conflict deepens with the Intifada, the Palestinians refuse to let the Israelis enter, further delaying long-overdue efforts to diagnose the cause of the damage. UNESCO for its part is helpless in the face of the intractable political confrontation — a situation that symbolizes the fate of cultural treasures in war zones everywhere.

Closing remarks," Islam and IT" Symoisium

Professor Toshiharu Kitamura, general coordinator, presented the following closing remarks at the conclusion of the two-day symposium at the International Convention Center of Waseda University over a two-day period of October12-13, 2002.

The two-day symposium, which is sponsored by Waseda University and the Global Information and Telecommunication Institute GITI and cosponsored by University's Institute of Spatial Science for Regional & Global Culture and Institute of Egyptology, has presented us a number of implications and suggestions for our approach to 'Islam and information & telecommunication technology' and our further dialogue on this issue.

The session began with the two keynote speeches;

Prof. Michael C. Hudson has shown a cautious view to the recent somewhat hardened tendency against Islam, which has become increasingly dominant in many parts of the advanced countries. Over the recent period, the Islamic world has been gradually transforming itself with the more emphasis on the private sector and more room for the NGOs' activities; recent developments in the satellite TV communications and the variety of web-sites related to the Arab community have verified this trend. Meanwhile, with the continuing suppressive regimes or ' frustrated society' in terms of the 2002 UNDP report in many parts of the Islam world, he stressed the possibility that the traditional and informal network could have crucial implications for the Islam and international community; the most recent example was the role of 'hawala' for the financial intermediation between the Islam society and the rest of the world. Accordingly, Prof. Hudson emphasized that, while paying due attention to the social and economic malaise in the Islam world, we have to be aware of the probability of the Islamic symbolism to be embodied in the informal framework equipped with the most modern IT innovations.

Prof. Tsugitaka Sato undertook a general review of technological innovations in the Islam world by taking the example of 'paper and sugar.' He identified the extensive Islam network that had been created, even before the European Middle Ages, by pilgrimage to Mecca from various parts of the world, by merchandise transactions across the continents/deserts/ethnicities, and by energetic intellectual communications standardized by the Arabic language. The Islam ' Mocha-cafe' in the old Islam days was almost equivalent to the modern 'Internet-cafe'

At the following three sessions, researchers and scholars represented presented a variety of views on   the impacts of information and telecommunication technology on the Islam society, its impacts on the Islam society and economy, and   the heritage of culture and Islam.

At the first session, Mr. Hosaka elaborated on the background of the information society in the Islam community; Mr. Hasegawa, on the relation among the Egyptian, Byzantine, and Islam cultures; and Prof. Tanada, on the urbanization and information network in Egypt; Prof. Dale F. Eickelman, on the IT influence on the traditional Islam religious community;

At the second session, Prof. Kitamura focused on the frustrated Islam socio-economy based on the 2002 UNDP report; Prof. Magosaki, on the entwined conflicts between fundamentalists and reformists; Assistant Prof. M. Hakan Yavuz, on the zoning approach to the Islam world; and Mr. Hatanaka, on the e-commerce and Internet use constrained by religious and cultural conditions; and,

At the third session, Prof. Yamasaki discussed the technological communication through IT products between the Middle-East Asia and Japan; Prof. Yoshimura, the most recent excavation progress in Egypt prompted by the use of modern scientific technology; UNESCO Officer Mr. Matsumoto, the triangular conflict and cooperation among UNESCO, the USA, and LDCs in intellectual cooperation; and Mr. Takagi, the cultural confrontation between the Islam and Judaism in Jerusalem.

Following the 2001 symposium, our discussion this year 2002 was intended to go into detailed aspects of the relation between Islam and IT and explore the possibility of analyzing how modern technology has changed the Islam society/economy and how it has been hampered by traditional conditions. Our intention has been largely materialized through active argument and debate with the floor. We must continue to view Islam in a fresh and modern point of the perspective. Our bottom-up approach is expected to lead fruitfully to further dialogue next year. Our symposium has been strongly backed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology, and the Sasagawa Peace Foundation for their cooperation, understanding and support. We deeply appreciate their continuous backing. We also wish to express our gratitude to everyone participating in this symposium and contributing to the constructive arguments.

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TEL
E-mail   djed@orion.ocn.ne.jp

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