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The Perception of Japanese Abroad Towards the Middle East — Past and Present —

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Need-Based Program for Area Studies

Middle East within Asia: Law and Economics

This report is the reedited version in English of the two published reports (Research Report Series No.1 and No.2) in Japanese on the same subject. The surveys on which this report is based were conducted in the all processes, from preparing for questionnaires until analyzing them, under the responsibility of the office for the "Need-Based Program for Area Studies: Middle East within Asia: Law and Economics", sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

This report is composed of two parts, titled "Japanese nationals living in the Middle East" and "Japanese nationals that have lived in the Middle East" respectively, besides the copy of the Questionnaire for the survey as Appendix. It was co-edited and co-written by Mr. Tatsuo Tanigawa (NPO:Action for a Better International Community) for Part 2 and Mr. Makoto Yoshitoshi (Hitotsubashi University) for Part 1, both of whom are staffs of the office for the Project.

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The Office of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Dubai.

NPO: Action for a Better International Community (ABIC) in Tokyo.

The Perception of Japanese Abroad Towards the Middle East

— Past and Present —

In 2006, the five-year project titled “*The Middle East within Asia: Law and Economics*” sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, was launched. The aim of this project is to develop mutual understanding between Japan and the Middle East in direct response to current social needs.

The purpose of the present report is to present the results of a survey on “The Perception of Japanese Abroad Towards the Middle East” conducted as part of this project. The survey consisted of two parts, with the first part concentrating on Japanese nationals currently living in the Middle East, and the second part focusing on those that have live in the Middle East in the past.

The objective of the survey is to investigate the circumstances in which Japanese nationals, especially businessmen, live and work in the Middle East in the past and at present, and their views on and attitudes toward the societies and cultures of the Middle East. The survey was conducted by questionnaire method, using the same questionnaire for both those currently living and those having lived in the past in the Middle East.

The questionnaire focuses on six topics (the full questionnaire is provided in the Appendix). The first three topics focus on the circumstances of Japanese nationals’ lives in the Middle East. The next two topics concentrate on their perceptions of life and work in the region, and the last topic deals with their perceptions of Middle Eastern societies and Islam. Specifically, the topics are broken down as follows:

- (1) The individual and family attributes of survey subjects
- (2) Living environment
- (3) Work environment
- (4) Perceptions of life in the Middle East
- (5) Perceptions of work in the Middle East
- (6) Perceptions of Middle Eastern societies and Islam

This report is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the perceptions of Japanese nationals living in the Middle East today, and the second part deals with the perceptions of retired businessmen from Japanese companies, mainly general trading companies (sogo shosha), that lived in the Middle East in the past. The number of survey participants was 405 for the first group and 84 for the second.

The Middle East is a region characterized by great diversity and rapid change of historical circumstances. In the Middle East, social systems and norms, whether formal or informal, differ from country to country. Moreover, wide gaps in the economic development of the countries of the region have emerged as a result of social and political upheaval linked to events such as the Iranian Islamic Revolution, the Palestine problem, and the Gulf and Iraq wars.

Especially since the 1980s, a rapid and drastic divergence in economic development can be observed. Moreover, as a result, political and social institutions and structures have also taken a divergent course. Given this background, the first part of the report for Japanese living

in the Middle East classifies the results by country. The second part for Japanese that have lived in the Middle East classifies the results by period.

1. Japanese nationals living in the Middle East

1.1 Japanese nationals in the Middle East

According to data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Middle Eastern country with the largest number of Japanese nationals living there long-term is the United Arab Emirates (UAE), followed by Turkey, Egypt and Iran (See Table 1 and Figure 1). Israel also has a large number of Japanese nationals living there long-term, but differs from other Middle Eastern countries in that most of the Japanese living in Israel are not businessmen and their families.

The total number of Japanese nationals living long-term in the Middle Eastern countries has increased in recent years, especially since 2004. The main reason for this is the sharp rise in the number of those living in the UAE, especially Dubai, where the number of Japanese has roughly doubled from around 1,000 to about 2,000 over the past ten years. Another country that has seen a rise in Japanese nationals in recent years is Turkey due to its role as a base for Japanese manufacturing firms exporting to the EU. On the other hand, although the number of Japanese nationals in Iran is also relatively high, it has plateaued since 2004.

In contrast, the number of Japanese nationals in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which have traditionally hosted the offices of a large number of public and private institutions as well as companies, has either stagnated or declined. In addition, there are countries such as Qatar that have seen rapid growth in the number of Japanese nationals, although from a very small base.

These trends represent more than mere changes in numbers. They reflect changes in the place of Middle Eastern countries in the global economy. A prime example is Dubai, which has become a business hub and financial center for the region and has raised its relative position. These changes brought about changes in the relations between countries in the region and Japan – relations that have become more diversified and multidimensional.

Against the background of these trends, the aim of this report is to examine the perceptions with regard to the Middle East of Japanese nationals who have stayed long-term in the region. It seeks to address how the experience of living in the Middle East has shaped or changed perceptions of the region.

1.2 Survey subjects

The survey subjects were 405 Japanese nationals living in Middle Eastern countries on a long-term basis. The survey subjects were contacted through the “Nihonjinkai” (Japanese Association) office in each country.¹ We sent the questionnaires to the leader of each association and responses from 405 individuals. The number of respondents from each country is shown in Table B.

For the analysis in this report, countries are divided into seven countries or groups: (1) UAE; (2) Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; (3) other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members (Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and Yemen); (4) Egypt and Jordan; (5) North Africa (Libya, Tunisia,

¹ “Nihonjinkai” are associations formed by Japanese communities abroad. Members exchange information on the respective country and often manage a Japanese school for their children with help from the Japanese embassy.

and Morocco); (6) Iran; and (7) Turkey. We analyzed the results mainly using these categories.

Almost all of the respondents (88.9%) are male. Most of them (72.8%) were hired directly by and work for Japanese enterprises. Respondents are evenly distributed in terms of their age structure, that is, those in their 30s account for 29.3%, those in their 40s for 29.9%, and those in their 50s for 28.8%

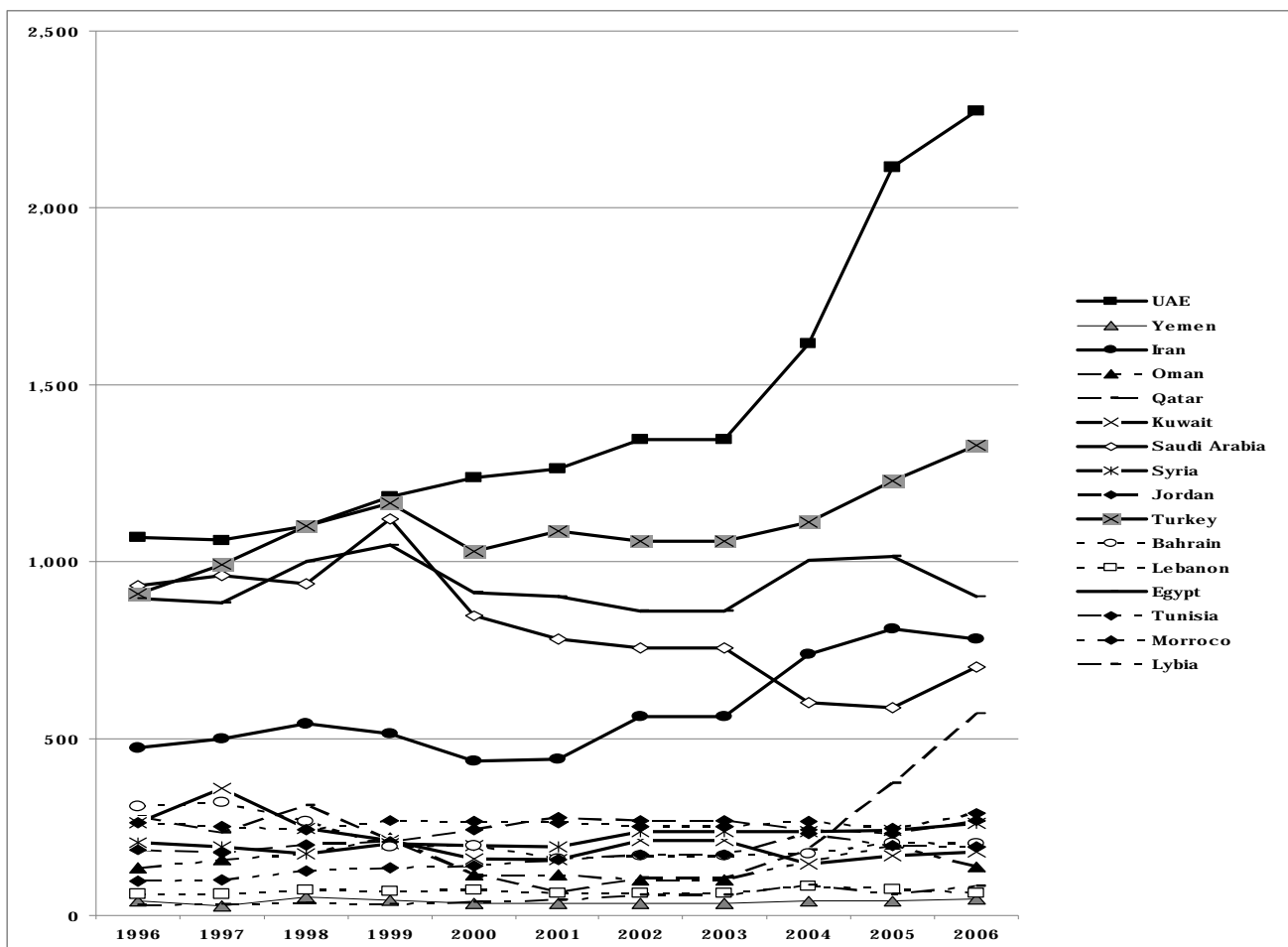
Concerning respondents' period of stay, those spending "between one and three years" in their host country make up 57.6%, and overall, more than two-thirds (69.7%) stay for three years or less. The reason is that most Japanese employees at public and private companies work in the host country under the human resources regulations of their company in Japan. This also means that there are no significant differences in patterns across countries with regard to this issue.

Table 1: Number of Japanese nationals living long-term in the Middle East

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	11	136	136	110	132	144
UAE	1,070	1,060	1,101	1,182	1,237	1,264	1,346	1,346	1,615	2,115	2,274
Yemen	40	27	51	43	35	33	34	34	41	41	46
Israel	483	523	586	708	618	609	538	538	629	650	716
Iraq	0	0	0	0	4	6	10	10	0	0	0
Iran	474	499	541	513	435	441	561	561	738	810	781
Oman	133	157	174	219	115	115	100	100	153	198	136
Qatar	280	233	312	211	113	66	106	106	185	374	571
Kuwait	262	358	244	211	161	157	210	210	145	169	180
Saudi Arabia	933	961	939	1,121	846	780	754	754	602	586	702
Syria	204	194	173	203	197	193	236	236	236	239	258
Jordan	186	178	199	208	243	276	269	269	243	232	269
Turkey	910	991	1,101	1,166	1,030	1,087	1,057	1,057	1,111	1,229	1,329
Bahrain	308	318	264	195	197	160	169	169	174	204	202
Lebanon	61	61	71	69	72	64	62	62	82	74	63
Algeria	62	129	49	66	72	101	102	102	104	115	78
Egypt	896	884	1,001	1,046	912	900	862	862	1,002	1,014	901
Tunisia	97	101	125	135	139	156	172	172	231	196	193
Morocco	263	250	243	267	266	261	252	252	266	246	289
Libya	28	32	34	31	37	42	58	58	86	59	83
Total	8,686	8,953	9,206	9,593	8,729	8,723	9,036	9,037	9,757	10,688	11,221

Source: Annual Report of Statistics on Japanese Nationals Overseas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Figure 1: Number of Japanese living long-term in the Middle East



Source: Annual Report of Statistics on Japanese Nationals Overseas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Table 2: Number of survey participants by country

Country	Number
UAE (Dubai)	73
UAE (Abu Dhabi)	66
Iran	41
Jordan	9
Libya	5
Bahrain	14
Yemen	1
Kuwait	11
Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)	25
Tunisia	20
Egypt	30
Oman	12
Qatar	63
Morocco	2
Turkey	33
Total	405

Table 3: Present employment status

Country	Present employment status ² (%)					Total
	Japanese enterprise	Self-owned business	Foreign enterprise	Public institution	Other	
UAE (Dubai)	90.3	1.4	8.3	0	0	100.0
UAE (Abu Dhabi)	74.1	0	10.3	15.5	0	100.0
Iran	77.8	0	0	22.2	0	100.0
Jordan	70.8	0	8.3	20.8	0	100.0
Libya	37.5	0	12.5	25.0	25.0	100.0
Bahrain	40.0	0	10.0	50.0	0	100.0
Yemen	44.4	0	0	22.2	33.3	100.0
Kuwait	50.0	10.0	3.3	30.0	6.7	100.0
Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)	63.6	0	0	36.4	0	100.0
Tunisia	50.0	12.5	6.3	25.0	6.3	100.0
Egypt	73.0	0	7.9	19.0	0	100.0
Oman	100.0	0	0	0	0	100.0
Qatar	50.0	50.0	0	0	0	100.0
Morocco	100.0	0	0	0	0	100.0
Turkey	84.8	0	6.1	3.0	6.1	100.0
Total	72.8	1.9	6.6	16.1	2.6	100.0

1.3 Contents and analysis of the survey

1.3.1 Living Environment

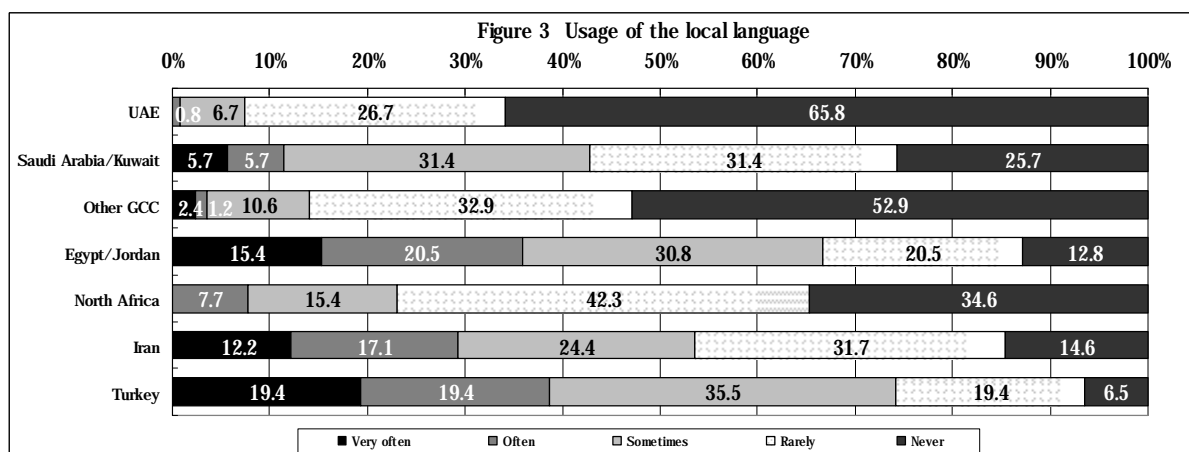
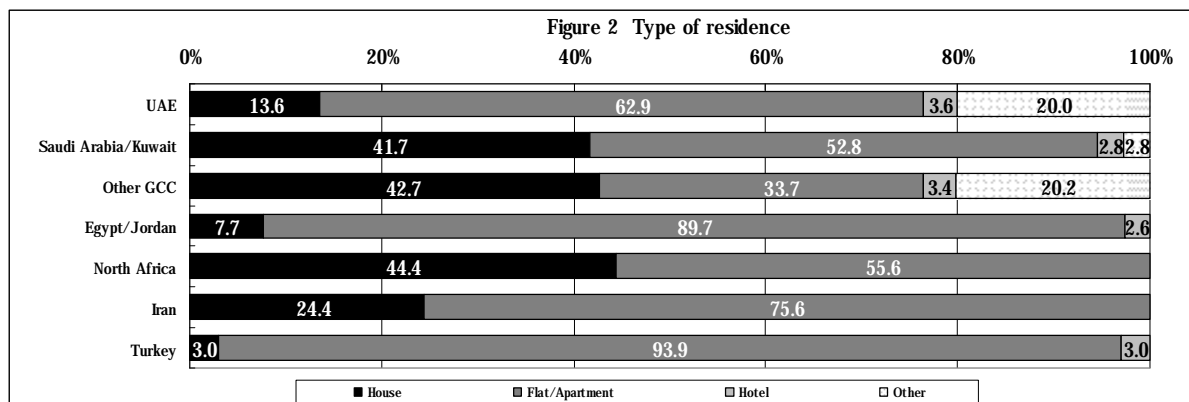
The living circumstances of the respondents greatly depend on the characteristics of local society. Beginning with the type of residence, the majority of survey respondents live in an apartment building, although in the Gulf countries, a high percentage live in a house in a compound (or on the site where they work for their project). This is why they have little or no contact with local citizens in those countries. Moreover, in these countries, Japanese businessmen often hire servants and drivers that are also foreign citizens, not local citizens. They consequently do not, or do not need to, speak the local language. Therefore, in many cases, the local media represent the only exposure to local society.

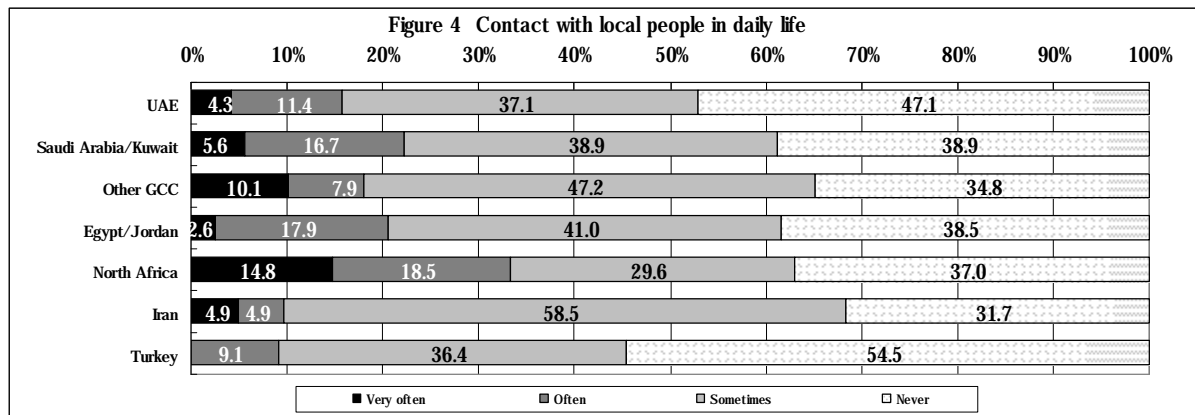
In terms of Japanese nationals' accommodation, the situation in Dubai is exceptional among the Gulf countries. A high percentage of Japanese there reside in apartments (70.3% versus a GCC average of 46.7%) in lower class areas (16.2%; GCC average: 8.1%). The percentage of those saying they "watch domestic and satellite TV" and "read the local newspaper" is very high in Dubai. Nevertheless, this does not mean that Japanese businessman socialize with local people in Dubai. In fact, the opposite is the case. Among the Gulf countries, Dubai is the country where the percentage of those saying their interaction with locals is the lowest. In addition, few Japanese businessmen in Dubai speak Arabic and most use only English.

²The total of 405 survey respondents includes 20 housewives. We began our analysis by excluding those 20 housewives because the intention had been to focus only on businessmen. In the end, however, we decided to include the housewives because their answers did not differ substantially from those of the other survey respondents. The housewives did not answer the questions regarding work-related issues.

As above, the Gulf countries have some features in common in terms of living environment. Meanwhile, among the other Middle Eastern countries, such features in common are not found. The living environments of Japanese nationals are different by country. For instance, in Egypt, almost all respondents live in an apartment in an upper class area. They often speak Arabic, not only English, and at least partly have contact with locals through interaction with their neighborhood and servants. In their daily life of Japanese nationals, which has frequent contacts with local people, many troubles between Japanese nationals and local people happen in Egypt.

North African countries are not unique among the Middle East in terms of the situation of Japanese nationals' accommodation. But, in other respects, North Africa is so unique. Japanese nationals in North African countries speak French and even the local language, and tend to interact with their neighborhood. Among survey participants, those living in North Africa interacts the most with local society. (These results may be affected by the fact that respondents in North African countries are not employees of Japanese private enterprises.) Iran is distinguished by in the fact that most Japanese there live in upper class areas and the percentage of those living in single family houses is relatively high. Apart from these differences with regard to living area and type of residence, patterns among Japanese nationals there are similar to those for Turkey, where Japanese businessman interact with local society only through their servants. Japanese nationals in Turkey often speak the local language, but they have little interaction with their neighborhood.





1.3.2 Work environment

A wide variety of business environments can be found in the Middle East as result of the development of economic and political structures peculiar to each individual country.

Meanwhile, regarding the situation in the offices where the Japanese work, two distinct patterns can be observed – one for the oil-producing countries in the Gulf and one for the other Middle Eastern countries.

Regarding respondents' view of recent developments in the business climate of their host country, the largest percentage, 32.1%, replied that this was “unchanged,” while 26.7% found it had “(considerably) improved. In the oil-producing countries of the Gulf, the percentage of those answering the business climate had “(considerably) improved” was 32.4%, which is higher than the average. A likely reason is the rise in oil prices until mid-2008. The other reason most commonly cited by Japanese businessman is that “economic policy and institutions have become more like those in Western countries.” Another reason is that “relationships among GCC countries have improved.” A final reason cited by some respondents is that “the trade and financial relationships between Japan and Middle Eastern countries are expected to expand to certain other sectors beyond oil and gas.”

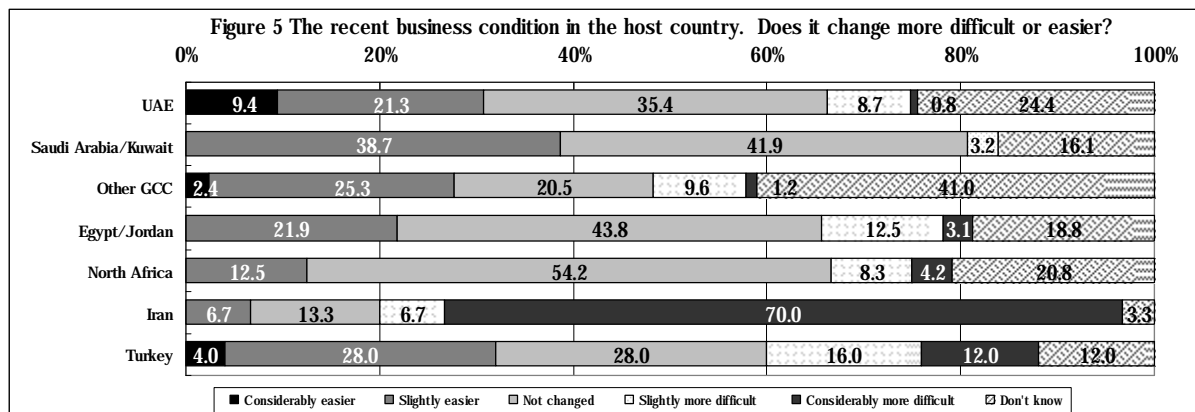
Most survey participants indicate that there is no native colleague in their office. Instead, most of their colleagues are foreign workers from South or Southeast Asia, and communication takes place in English. Although some employment-related problems are seen in Saudi Arabia, the likelihood of problems in offices is generally low in these countries.

In regions such as Egypt/Jordan and North Africa, it is felt that the business climate has not changed for some time. The Japanese businessmen there tend to have the impression that these countries are strengthening their ties with Europe rather than with Japan. They do not expect that Japan will be able to build strong economic relationships with these countries, since strong relations with Europe already exist. Concerning the work place there, a typical office in this region consists of a few Japanese and several (fewer than 30) local employees. Moreover, North Africa is the region where “problems regarding contracts” are most likely.

It appears from the response of the Japanese nationals that today Iran is under the very severe situation because of the economic sanction by USA. A series of the sanction seriously interfere with the transnational flow of the capital in the course of trade and finance business. Almost all respondents in Iran complain about it. And, they answer that they work in Iran now because of Iran's huge amount of oil reserves and its potential of Iran economy.

32.0% of respondents based in Turkey reported that the environment for their business has “(considerably) improved”. On the other hand, an almost equal share of 27.0% felt that it had

become “(considerably) more difficult”. These conflicting assessments of local business conditions reflect divergent opinions on the impact developing relations between Turkey and the EU will have. Some feel that closer ties with Europe will lead to better regulations with regard to trade and finance, will help them to break into the EU market, and will lead to higher growth in the Turkish domestic market. In contrast, others emphasize negative factors such as political instability and rising wage levels. In this context, it is also interesting to note that Turkey is the country in which employment-related problems are the most frequent. A possible reason is that many offices (36.9%) employ over 30 local workers.

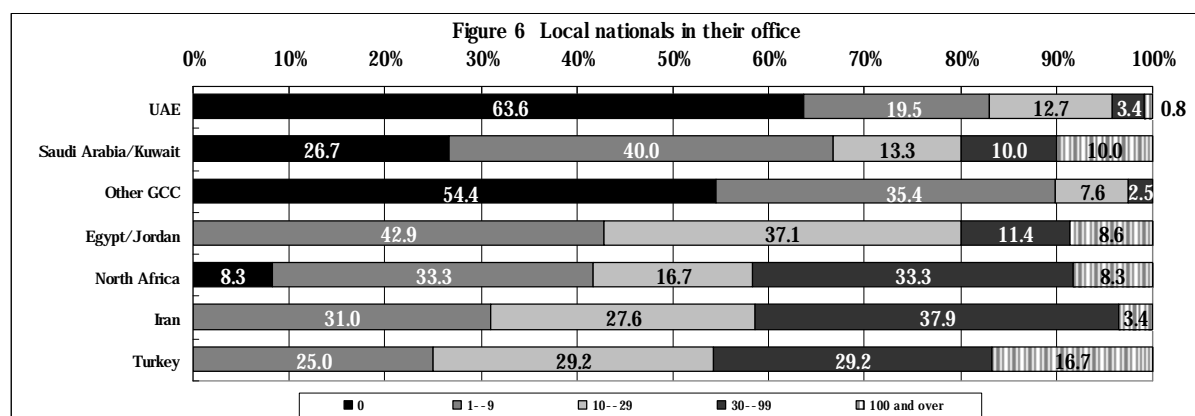


◆ Factors making business easier

- Adoption of international standard business rules (*Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar*).
- Clarification and improved transparency of business rules (*Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt*).
- The Middle East and Japan becoming more interested in each other (*Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Qatar*).
- By going via Dubai, trips to the Middle East and neighboring areas have become easier (*Dubai*).
- Establishing relationship of mutual trust with Japan (*Dubai, Abu Dhabi*).
- Emergence of a unified market among GCC countries in which barriers are eliminated (*Kuwait*).
- Exploitation and import of LNG by Japan (*Qatar*).
- Economic policy changed along the EU rule (*Turkey*).

◆ Factors making business more difficult

- Nuclear issue and economic sanctions (*Iran*).
- Increase of volume of trade between Europe and the country they work in (*Egypt, Tunisia, Oman*).
- Rising wages, prices, and living costs as a result of inflation (*Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Turkey*).
- Intensifying international competition (*Abu Dhabi*).
- Partner growing arrogant through oil boom (*Dubai*).



1.3.3 Adaptation to the life in Middle East

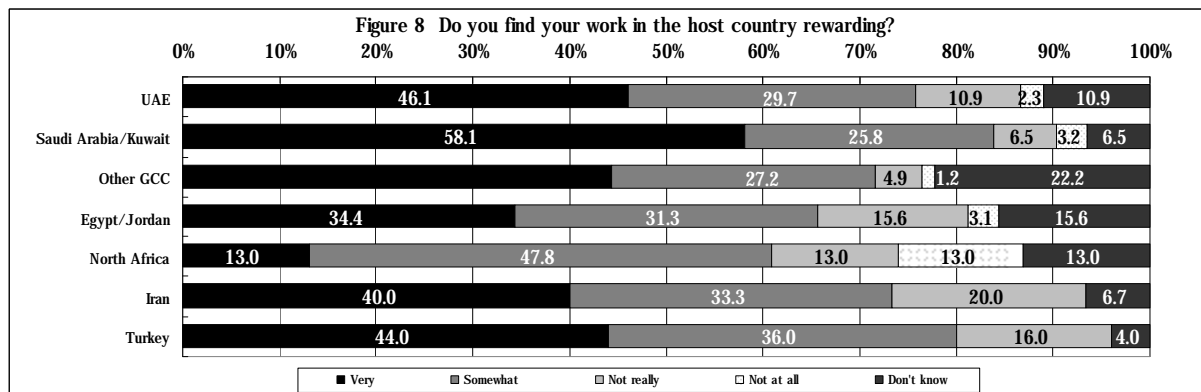
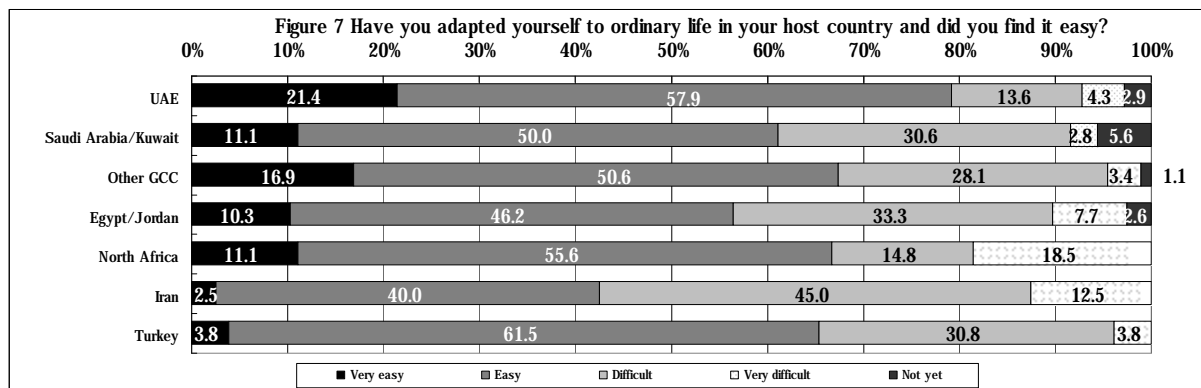
Overall, most of the respondents (67.2%) replied that they adapted to life in their host country (very) easily. There is no significant difference between those living in the Gulf countries and those living in other countries. This result differs from that with regard to the living and work environment, where there are very clear differences between the Gulf countries and the other countries. However, the UAE and Iran do stand out to some extent. The percentage of those replying they found it “(very) easy” to adapt is exceptionally high for the UAE. On the other hand, Iran is the only country where the percentage of those who replied they found it “(very) difficult” is greater than that of those who found it “(very) easy.”

The major obstacles to adapting to local life by country were as follows: Saudi Arabia/Kuwait: difference in habits and daily rhythm; GCC: climate; Egypt: living environment; Jordan: difference in habits; North Africa: language; Iran: diet as well as lack of information and entertainment; Turkey: language.

With regard to adapting to work life, the patterns are very similar to those for adapting to daily life: it tends to be easier in the Gulf oil countries than in the other countries (except Egypt). The mentality of the local people is the most frequently cited reason for problems in adapting to local work life. In North Africa, Egypt/Jordan, and Saudi Arabia/Kuwait, the mentality of the local people is often regarded as a major obstacle. In addition, in Saudi Arabia/Kuwait, another frequently cited obstacle is relationships with the local administrative authorities.

Next, turning to the question whether Japanese businessmen think that their work is rewarding, a substantial majority in each of the countries feels that this is the case. Those working in the Gulf countries were more likely to feel that their work was rewarding than those working in the other countries. Reasons why those working in the Gulf countries were more satisfied with their work were that due to rising oil prices, these countries provided opportunities for the expansion of business and markets, and that their work contributed to the development of local society and also to Japan. The reasons were more frequently given by those working in the Gulf countries than by those living in other countries.

Meanwhile, reasons given by those who felt their work was not rewarding include differences in business institutions and customs between the host country and Japan. These differences are often interpreted by the respondents as differences in the mentality of local people which are regarded as lazy.



◆ Reasons why work is rewarding

- Hope for economic development and expanding business opportunities (*Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Iran, Turkey*).
- Contribution to the development of local society and market (*Dubai, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Iran, Egypt*).
- Expanding business as a regional hub (*Dubai*).
- Country favorably disposed to Japan (*Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Turkey*).
- Contribution to Japan by their stable supply of energy (*Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia*).
- World's largest LNG plant (*Qatar*).
- Enjoy challenge resulting from difficult situation (*Iran*).
- Possibility of expanding business not only in local market, but also in Europe and Russia (*Turkey*).

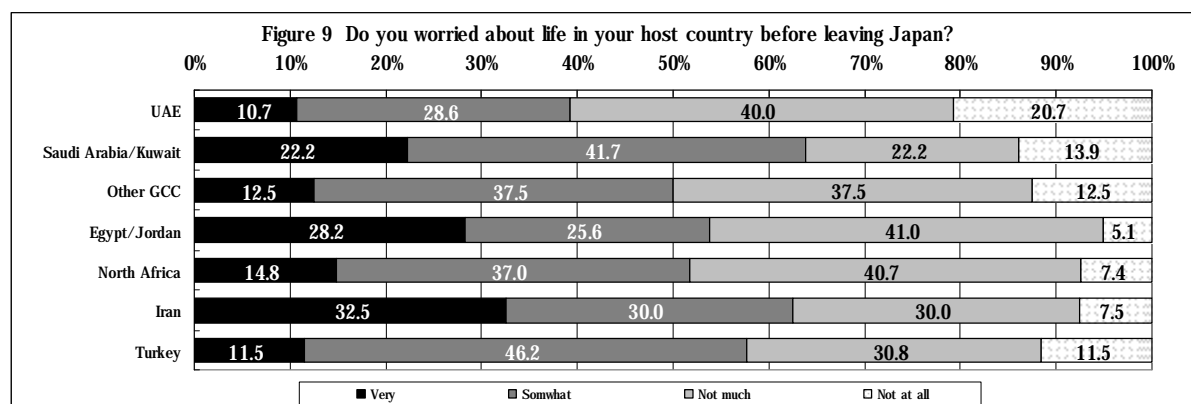
◆ Reasons why work is not rewarding

- Difficulties resulting from U.S. economic sanctions (*Iran*).
- Mentality of local people/cannot trust local people (*Iran, Egypt, Tunisia*).
- Difference of business customs from international norms/ frequent problems (*Iran, Tunisia*).
- Society more exclusive than in other Middle Eastern countries (*Saudi Arabia*).
- No respect for foreign businessmen (*Dubai*).
- Strict regulation (*Saudi Arabia*).
- Find it difficult to understand that everything is imported from abroad and own country is not being developed (*Dubai*).

1.3.4 Perception towards Middle Eastern societies and Islam

Another set of question of the survey dealt with concerns that Japanese nationals had before

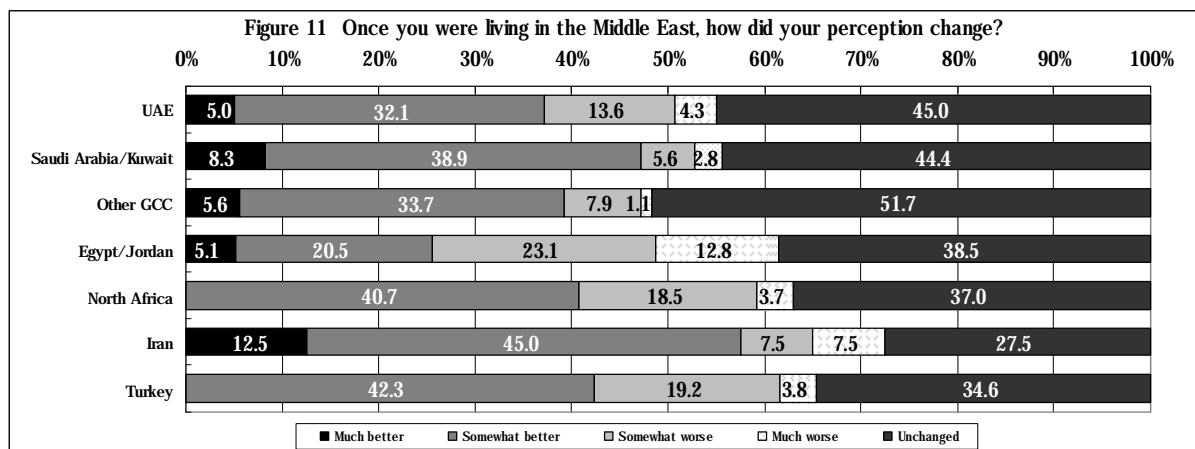
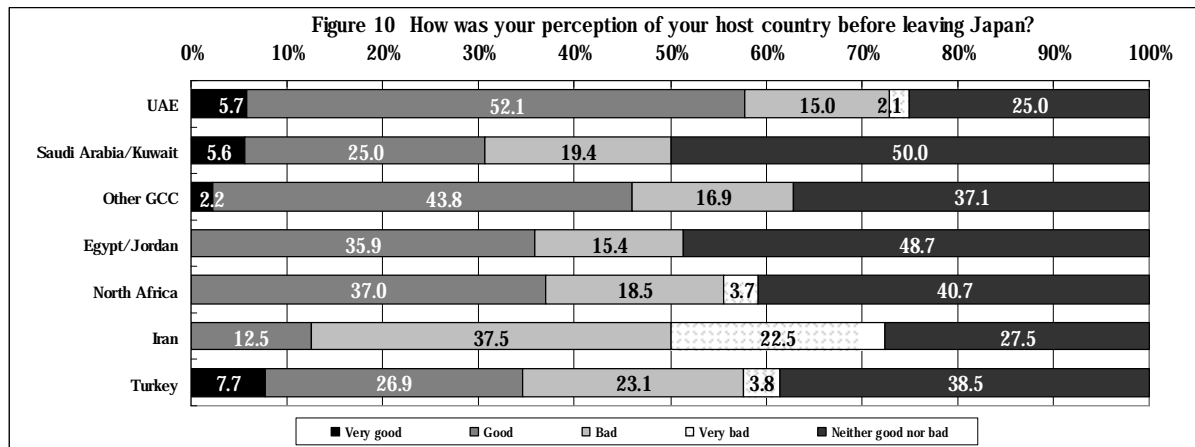
living in the Middle East. Not surprisingly, responses depended on the country in question. In particular, it may be said that responses depended on how the media in Japan report on individual countries in the region. For instance, the percentage saying they were very or somewhat worried about living in the UAE before leaving Japan was only 39.5% compared with 49.7% of all respondents that were very or somewhat worried before going to live in the Middle East. In contrast, among those living in Saudi Arabia/Kuwait, countries which, like the UAE, lie in the Gulf region, 69.9% said they were very or somewhat worried before leaving Japan, and the main reason for this was concern over “security.” A likely factor underlying this is that Japanese media reported about terrorism incidents in Saudi Arabia in 2003 and 2004. Similarly, concerns were high among those going to Egypt and Jordan – 28.2% of those posted in these countries reported that they had been “very worried” before going. Again, media reports on terrorism are the likely reason. A high degree of anxiety about living in their host country was also reported among those working in Iran, although it is difficult to identify a specific factor. A possible reason is that the national image of Iran itself is very negative in Japan.



The differences in the way a country is perceived come out more sharply when respondents were asked about the image they held of the country they were going to. In the case of Iran, only 12.5% held a favorable image, while 60.0% held a negative image. Among the other countries/regions, the one with the second-worst image was Saudi Arabia/Kuwait, of which only 30.6% of respondents had a positive image before departure. However, the negative image of Iran and Saudi Arabia/Kuwait tended to improve considerably upon living in the country and the improvement was actually greater the more negative the pre-departure image was, that is, in the case of Iran, 57.5% of respondents said their image of the country was better or much better, while in the case of Saudi/Arabia, that percentage was 46.3%. These results suggest that the experience of living in the country narrowed the gap between the image and the reality of these countries. This interpretation is supported by the reasons given for the improved image, that is, respondents said that the prejudices they had held were proven wrong, and that public security in the country was better than expected.

However, experience of living in the country does not always improve perceptions of the host country. In the case of Dubai, for example, respondents generally had a positive image before going, with the image being that Dubai is a metropolitan city for rich people. However, many respondents were subsequently disappointed. Moreover, in the case of some countries, a negative image was even reinforced. For Egypt/Jordan, for instance, more respondents reported that their impression became somewhat or much worse than reported that it became

better. It is not easy to find reasons for these different reactions, but a possible explanation is problems encountered in daily life. These may be most likely encountered in countries where Japanese nationals have the most contact with locals, such as in Egypt, and may strengthen prejudices such as “Arabs or Muslims are materialists or selfish”.



◆Reasons why impressions of local society became favorable

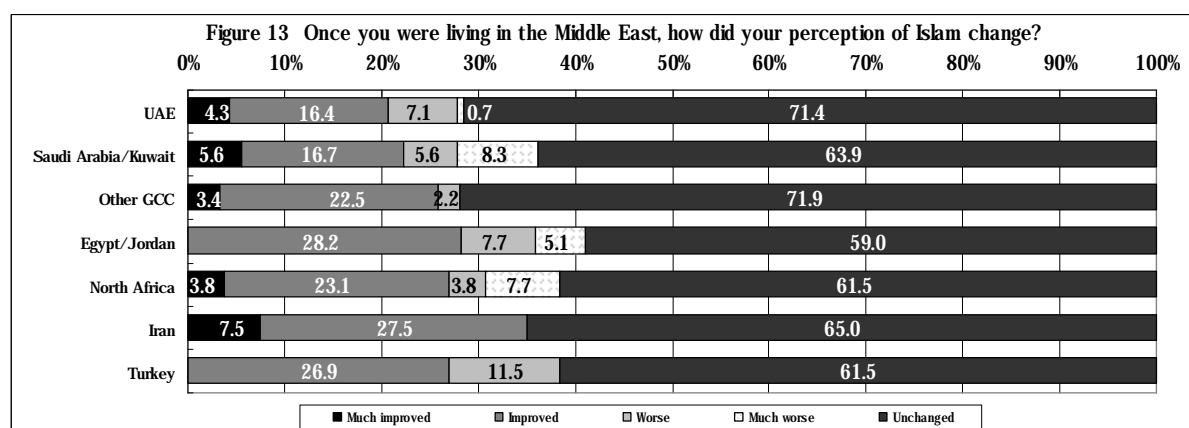
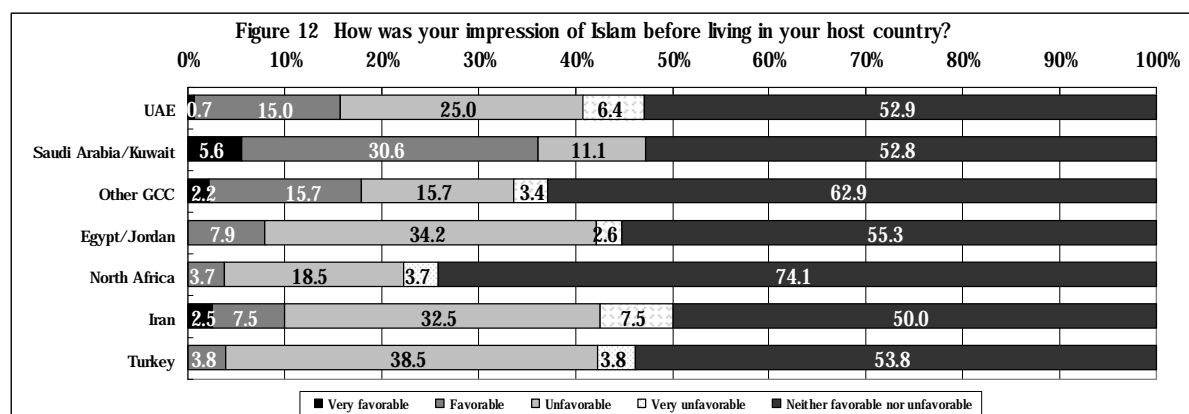
- Not as “Islamic” as expected/Prejudices they had held were proven wrong
(Iran, Turkey, Libya, Dubai, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain).
- Better public security than expected
(Iran, Egypt, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Qatar).
- The national character is friendly/The local people are very kind
(Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, Abu Dhabi, Oman).
- Country favourably disposed to Japan (Iran, Turkey, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Bahrain).
- The town is beautiful/The quality of life is good (Tunisia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar).

◆ Reasons why impressions of local society became unfavorable

- People were considered to be materialistic/Selfish/Discriminatory/Do not keep a promise
(Iran, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi).
- Traffic jams, difficulties in commuting and going shopping (Turkey, Dubai).
- Wide social disparities/Lack of opportunity to communicate with locals
(Dubai, Abu Dhabi).

- Cities are small/Insufficient infrastructure (*Egypt, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Qatar*).
- Bad political system/Society dominated by Islam (*Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia*).

Regarding their impression of Islam before leaving Japan, 28.2% of respondents indicated that this was unfavorable or very unfavorable, compared with only 15.1% that had a favorable or very favorable impression. However, the majority said that their impression was neither favorable nor unfavorable, i.e., they had formed no particular opinion on Islam before going. As for their impression of Islam once they had spent some time in the host country, 25.0% reported that it was improved or much improved, while only 7.3% said that it had become (much) worse. The large majority, 67.7%, however, replied that their impression was unchanged. Overall, these results can be summed up as implying that Japanese businessmen tend to show relatively little concern for or interest in Islam. Moreover, there is little difference in the results with regard to the country that respondents were going to live in or lived in.



◆Reasons why impression of Islam became favorable

- Lacked understanding of Islam when still in Japan because of reporting in mass media/Image of terrorism (*Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Bahrain*).
- Islam's contribution to social order and to reducing trouble (*Egypt, Tunisia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait*).
- Islam is benevolent and values hospitality (*Abu Dhabi, Oman, Qatar*).
- Discovered that Islam does not force itself on others (*Dubai*).
- Islam is not that different from other religions (*Turkey*).

◆Reasons why impression of Islam became unfavorable

- Islam is backward, violent, anti-rational, discriminatory (*Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia*).
- People conveniently attribute everything to Islam or Allah (*Iran, Tunisia, Dubai, Bahrain*).
- Islam lacks an awareness of human right (especially with regard to women) (*Dubai, Saudi Arabia*).
- The Islam people practice is not the real Islam. They interpret Islam wrongly (*Turkey, Egypt*).
- Religious antagonism (*Egypt*).
- Difficult to eat out (*Saudi Arabia*)

1.4 Discussion

In assessing the results of the survey, it is useful to briefly consider the public perception of the Middle East by the Japanese public in general. According to a survey by the Cabinet Office on the attitude to foreign countries, the percentage of people feeling kinship with the Middle East is very low.³ The percentage of respondents who indicated they felt (some) kinship with the Middle East was only 17.5%, which was higher only than the percentage for Russia (15.4%) and considerably lower than that for many other countries or regions such as the United States (75.3%), China (34.4%), Southeast Asia (35.6%), South Asia (25.5%), Europe (54.3%), Oceania (61.8%), Latin America and the Caribbean (45.5%), and Africa (25.0%).

This result does not necessarily mean that the Japanese public is hostile to the Middle East, but rather shows that it tends to be uninterested. One likely reason is that, unlike Europe, for example, Japan has no colonial links with the Middle East, nor does it aspire to influence the region like the United States. Moreover, in Japan, there are no domestic political issues with regard to Islam as can be found in Europe. Yet, although there is no hostile discourse on the Middle East, the Middle East still seems to be somewhat exceptional in that it appears to be regarded as the region “furthest removed” from Japan.

Of course, the results of the different surveys cannot be directly compared. It may be the case that the image that Japanese businessmen going to the Middle East have of the Middle East is not as bad as the image held by the Japanese public overall. It seems that Japanese expatriates are more familiar with “the Middle East” than the Japanese public. The following two reasons may be responsible for this. First, before leaving Japan, most businessmen take some lectures or get manuals prepared by their employers on the societies and business customs in Middle Eastern countries. Second, the favorable business conditions in the Middle East resulting from the oil boom, which were referred to in the open answers, may have made the Middle East an attractive market and place to work in in the eyes of such businessmen.

Yet, our survey also suggests that stereotypes of the Middle East and negative attitudes toward Islam prevail. As indicated by the survey respondents themselves, these were largely shaped by reports in the mass media, and especially TV news. However, unlike in the case of North Korea or, to some extent China and South Korea, it cannot be said that there is a distinct negative campaign against the Middle East or Islam. However, the distinct lack of interest in the Middle East and Islam that can be observed results in the acceptance of images of Islam constructed in the United States or Europe without critical reflection. In Japan, news

³ Cabinet Office (2006), “Gaiko ni kan suru Seron Chosa [Opinion Poll on Diplomatic Issues],” available online: <<http://www8.cao.go.jp/survey/h18/h18-gaiko/index.html>>.

on the events in the Middle East are reported mainly via Washington, D.C.

As indicated above, many of those holding a negative image before leaving Japan reported that their impression improved upon living in the host country. This was particularly so in the case of Iran as well as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, of which the impression before leaving Japan was very unfavorable. A statistical comparison of the perceptions before leaving Japan and after arrival in the host country suggests that these are significantly different. Generally speaking, the more anxious respondents were before leaving, or the worse their image was, the more their impression improved once they lived in the host country. This pattern suggests that many revised negative images of the region connected with war, terrorism, the “axis of evil,” etc.

Yet, this does not necessarily mean that respondents’ understanding of their host country broadened as a result of their living there. Many Japanese expatriates lack opportunities to interact with locals. Moreover, in countries where they do interact with locals, this does not always change perceptions to the better, as exemplified by the survey results for Egypt. Rather, what the survey suggests is that factors such as feeling that their work is rewarding and that the city in which they live is beautiful and a safe place are more important for improving perceptions than interaction with the neighborhood or usage of the local language.

This is one of the reasons why the perception of local society changed so easily. It appears that what Japanese businessmen in the Middle East most care about is success for their business. When they achieve this or their task is rewarding, their impression of the host country also tends to improve. Therefore, an improvement in the impression of the host country does not always require an effort to know more about local society.

In comparison to perceptions of local society, those of Islam tended to be considerably less favorable and remained mostly “unchanged” even after respondents had spent some time in their host country. At least, this result does not directly indicate that Japanese expatriates have the negative attitude to “Islam”. However, the other responses indicate that there is still a deep-seated or unconscious prejudice to Islam. For instance, when respondents replied that their perception of local society had improved, they often indicated that this was because they thought the society was “more secular than expected” and “not like an Islamic society.” Similarly, when respondents replied that their perception of local society got worse, some complain not about local society itself, but “the mentality of the local people “which comes from Islam.” It indicates that many Japanese continue to have a negative image of “Islam” after their living in the host countries.

This result might reflect the fact that Japanese nationals still remain bound by images constructed by the media, such as TV news, even after they themselves feel that they are relieved from that image. It shows how deeply the image of Islam constructed by the media affects the Japanese mentality in unconscious level. This is a problematic situation and may be the reason why the Japanese public feels that the Middle East has been the region “furthest removed” from Japan. Because Islam has still been a fundamental norm in the Middle East and constructs that pluralistic and even such “secular not like Islamic” societies as many Japanese nationals regard their host countries. If it is missed, the Middle East would forever continue to be the region “furthest removed” from Japan.

2. Japanese nationals that have lived in the Middle East

2.1 Survey subjects

For this part of the survey, 134 questionnaires were sent to businessmen who had lived in the Middle East by assignment of their companies, and 84 responses were received. Their stays in the Middle East cover the period from 1951 to 2006, and the respondents stayed in 14 Middle Eastern countries.

The distribution of respondents in terms of their arrival in the Middle East is as follows.

Table A –4

First arrival	Number of person	%
Before	40	47.6%
1980-1989	28	33.3%
1990 and after	14	16.7%
Unknown	2	2.4%
Total	84	100.0%

Responses are divided into three groups based on the period of arrival in the Middle East. The first group consists of those who arrived in the Middle East before the Iranian Islamic Revolution in 1979, the second of those who arrived between the Iranian Revolution and the Gulf War of 1991, and the third of those who arrived thereafter.

The reason that these periods are chosen is that both the Iranian Islamic Revolution and the Gulf War strongly shaped the politics and economics of the region. These events also greatly influenced the perceptions of Japanese businessmen of the region as well as life for Japanese businessmen in the region. That the three periods were indeed very different in these respects, and that this division into periods is appropriate, is clearly illustrated by the answers to several of the questions.

The countries in which survey participants lived are the following:

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, UAE (Abu Dhabi and Dubai), Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, and Sudan.

2.2 Contents and analysis of the survey

The following sections provide brief summaries of the highlights of the survey results for each of the six topics addressed.

2.2.1 Attributes of respondents and their families

The distribution of respondents' age at the time of the survey is as follows: those aged in their 40s make up 1.2%, those in their 50s account for 10.7%, and those 60 and over for 88.1%. The reason why those 60 and over account for the large majority is that the non-profit organization which helped with this survey consists of retired business persons. Furthermore, 100% of respondents are male, and 98.8% are married. The nationality of the wife in 97.6% of the cases is Japanese. 38.1% of respondents went to the Middle East alone, 15.5% were accompanied by their wife, and 44.0% brought their wife as well as their children.

2.2.2 Living environment

One of the important measures of respondents' activity to interact with local society is their usage of language and for this reason, this is the question we focus on here.

Comparing results for the three periods suggests that frequency to speak the local language, such as Arabic, Persian, or Turkish, is decreasing. Usage of the local language is influenced by the living environment, such as the types of the residence (for example, detached house, apartment, or compound) that the expatriate lives in. It can be assumed that those living in detached houses are likely to interact more frequently with locals than, say, those living in an apartment, where people are less likely to talk to their next-door neighbors. Similarly, in compounds, residents tend to be almost exclusively foreign, and due to severe living and work environment, such as very hot weather and labour condition, communication tends to be focused on people of the same nationality and interaction with locals tends to be limited. Residents living in compounds mainly use English.

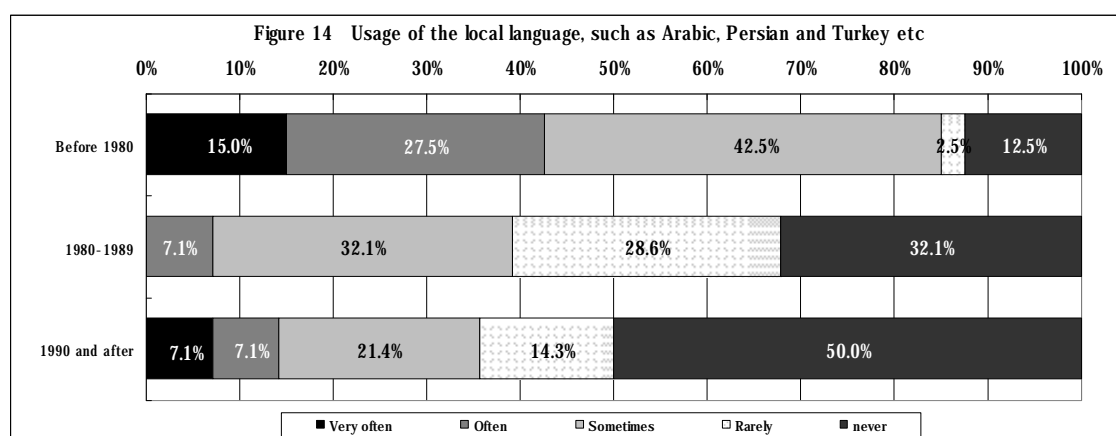


Table 5 Usage of the local language (Arabic, Persian, Turkish, etc.)

Arrival in Middle East	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Before 1980	15.0%	27.5%	42.5%	2.5%	12.5%
1980-1989	7.1%	32.1%	28.6%	32.1%	0.0%
1990 and after	7.1%	7.1%	21.4%	14.3%	50.0%
Total	8.3%	16.7%	35.7%	13.1%	26.2%

Next, we examine interaction with locals. The survey results indicate that before 1980, Japanese expatriates had frequent contacts with locals. However, during the 1980s, such interaction declined, although it then increased again slightly in the period after 1990. Just like language use, interaction with locals greatly depends on the living environment, as discussed above. This means that unless they interact with their local sponsor⁴ or office colleagues, Japanese expats tends to have few opportunities to interact with locals. This is also the case for interaction with expatriates from other countries, even if, because of the use of English, there are no language barriers.

⁴ In the Gulf countries, foreign commercial companies required to have a sponsor by the regulation to represent them in the market and conduct business for them. Accordingly only a sponsor can apply to the government for permissions, visas, etc.

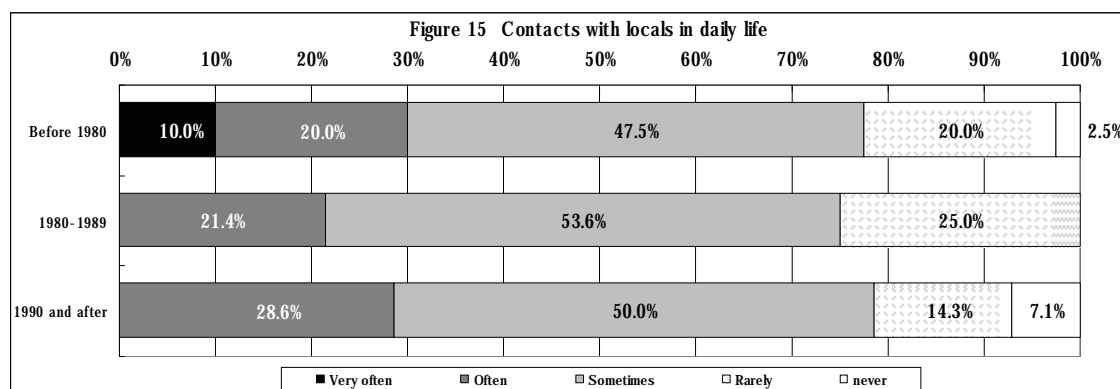


Table 6 Contact with locals in daily life

Arrival in Middle East	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Before 1980	10.0%	20.0%	47.5%	20.0%	2.5%
1980-1989		21.4%	53.6%	25.0%	
1990 and after		28.6%	50.0%	14.3%	7.1%
Total	4.8%	22.6%	48.8%	21.4%	2.4%

2.2.3 Work environment

In the passed, it was recognized that the business manner in the Middle East was different and difficult to conduct. Therefore in this section of the work environment, it was asked whether they thought that business conditions were becoming easier during the time that they were in the Middle East.

Before 1980, less than 20% recognized the business to become easier. But after 1990, 35.7% recognize to became easier slightly.

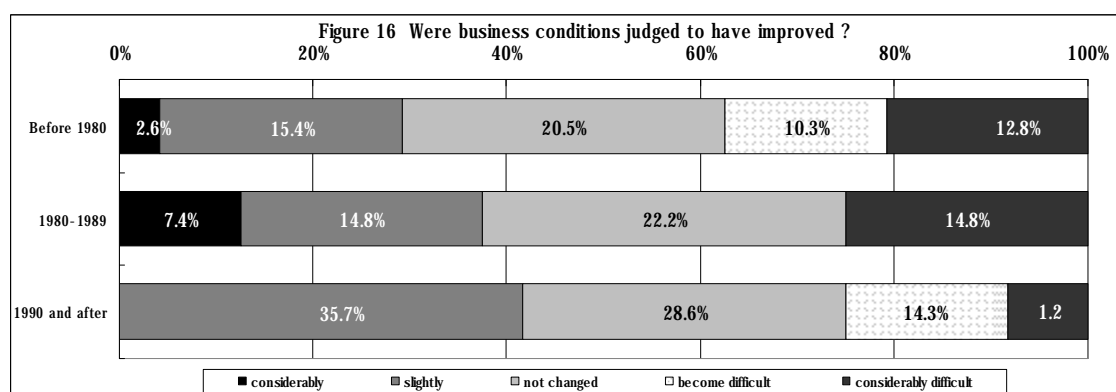


Table 7 Were business conditions judged to have improved ?

Arrival in Middle East	Considerably	Slightly	Unchanged	Became difficult	Considerably more difficult	Don't know
Before 1980	2.6%	15.4%	20.5%	10.3%	12.8%	7.7%
1980-1989	7.4%	14.8%	22.2%		14.8%	18.5%
1990 and after		35.7%	28.6%	14.3%	7.1%	7.1%
Total	3.7%	18.3%	23.2%	7.3%	12.2%	12.2%

Reasons why business conditions were judged to have improved:

- a. Improvement of the exposure of the Middle East countries in the world.
- b. Country opening up to foreign capital.
- c. The concept of “contracts” is taking root.
- d. Generational change in local management.
- e. Middle Eastern countries beginning to understand Japan.

However, many respondents thought that the work environment had remained unchanged. The following reasons were given:

- a. Decision-making power remains confined to a limited number of persons.
- b. The political system has remained largely unchanged.

On the other hand, reasons given why business conditions became more difficult are:

- a. Concern about civil strife and security.
- b. Economic sanctions due to the issue of nuclear weapons.
- c. International political relations.
- d. Closer relations between China and Middle Eastern countries.
- e. Human relationships with locals are becoming not dense and bureaucratic. This point has also been listed by some as a reason why business in the Middle East was getting easier.

2.2.4 Perceptions of life in the Middle East

Gauging the perceptions of Japanese nationals who have lived in the Middle East represents is a key objective of this part of the survey. We begin by looking at how Japanese expatriates adapted to life in the region.

Asked by what aspects posed the greatest problems in adapting to life in the Middle East, the answers – in descending order of difficulty – were as follows: language, differences in customs, diet, lack of information and entertainment, climate, living environment, rhythm of life, transportation systems, and human relationships.

Next, regarding their assessment of life in the Middle East, 70% of respondents who arrived there before 1980 indicated that life there was pleasant despite the severe climate, concerns over security, and strict religious regulations. We have no data to compare this assessment with other areas of the world, but we can make the following conjectures:

(1) In the Middle East, the human relationship is extremely close among expatriates of the same nationality. As mentioned before, the companionship with the local people or the expatriate from other countries is not close. Accordingly the companionship with the same nationality becomes closer. They try to find the pleasure in the activities such as playing tennis and excursion to the desert, etc. These phenomena are recognized not only Japanese but also most of other nationals in the region. In the compound, the communities of same nationals exist but quite few mixed nationals.

(2) During their stay in Middle East, the most attractive pleasure is to travel to Europe on leave twice a year for about two weeks each. Recently Japanese can afford travel to Europe by own

account even from Japan. But by around 1990, to travel to Europe was a really great reward for Japanese living in the Middle East.

(3) Then even after return to Japan, they continue to have gathering among representatives, wives and children of the same classmate in the Japanese school. These phenomena are exactly same as alumni associations of the graduated school. Japanese lived in the Middle East maintain the emotional affinity for a long time.

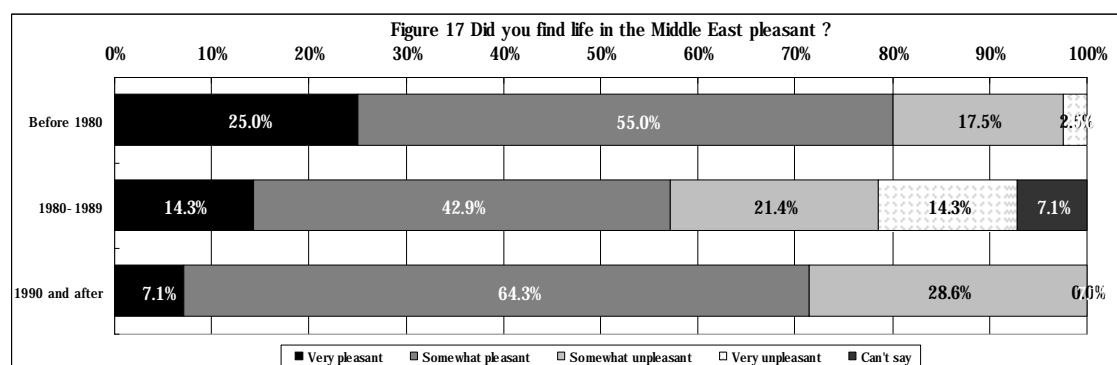


Table 8 Did you find life in the Middle East pleasant ?

Arrival in Middle East	Very pleasant	Somewhat pleasant	Somewhat unpleasant	Very unpleasant	Can't say]
Before 1980	25.0%	55.0%	17.5%	2.5%	
1980-1989	14.3%	42.9%	21.4%	14.3%	7.1%
1990 and after	7.1%	64.3%	28.6%		
Total	17.9%	52.4%	20.2%	7.1%	2.4%

2.2.5 Perceptions of work in the Middle East

The first issue to be examined with regard to perceptions of work in the Middle East is questions related to adaptation. Survey responses indicate that reasons why Japanese expatriates have found it difficult to adapt to work in the Middle East are linked to human relations and the mentality of the local people, as well as issues of social structure and administration affecting negotiations with bureaucrats, the speed with which work can proceeding, etc.

The second issue examined is how former expatriates view their work in Middle East. In this respect, it is notable that more than 78.5% of respondents thought that their work was challenging and worthwhile. In the case of those who were in the Middle East as representatives of a company, this perception is closely linked to concrete work-related results, such as sales turnover, profits, etc. Unfortunately, again no data are available that would allow a comparison of these results with other regions.

2.2.6 Perceptions of Middle Eastern society and Islam

This section looks at how Japanese nationals' perceptions of the regions changed once they arrived in their host country. The changes in perception are quite remarkable. In each of the three periods, about 50% of respondents replied that their perception of the Middle East improved once they lived in the region. In contrast, only between 10 and 20% of respondents indicated that their perception worsened."

This findings suggests that increasing contacts with people in the Middle East and interaction between Japan and the Middle East could make important contributions to reduction the gap between Japanese perceptions and the reality in the Middle East. Moreover, around a quarter of respondents replied that even after returning to Japan, their perception of the Middle East improved further, while only around 15% indicated that their perception became worse.

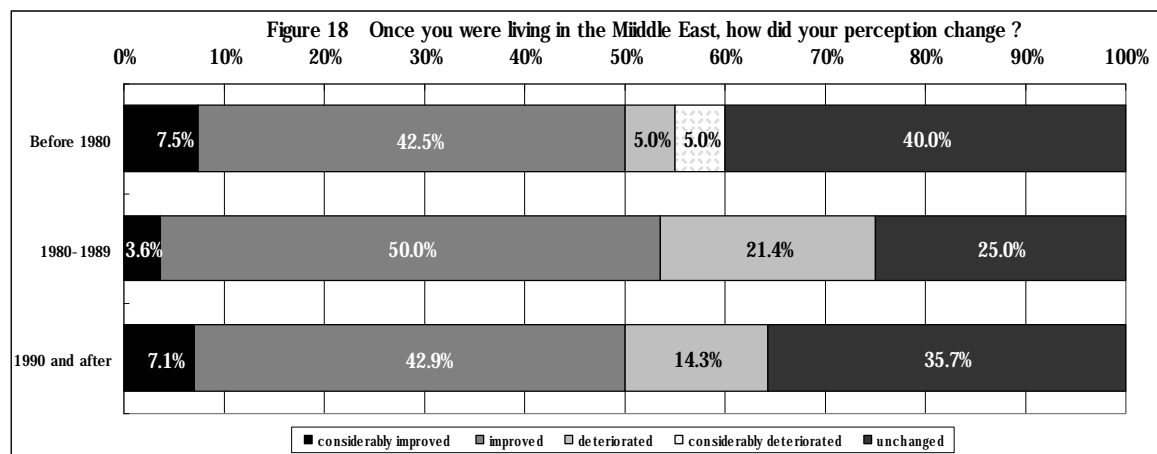


Table 9 Once you were living in the Middle East, how did your perception change?

Arrival in Middle East	Much better	Somewhat better	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Unchanged
Before 1980	7.5%	42.5%	5.0%	5.0%	40.0%
1980-1989	3.6%	50.0%	21.4%		25.0%
1990 and after	7.1%	42.9%	14.3%		35.7%
Total	6.0%	45.2%	11.9%	2.4%	34.5%

Finally, respondents were asked about their perceptions of Islam. Again, a substantial change could be observed once they had spent some time in their host country. During each of the three periods, between 50 and 70% of respondents did not declare a particular opinion on Islam. However, 36% of respondents indicated that once they had arrived in the Middle East, their perception of Islam changed favorably, compared with only 4% who said it changed unfavorably.

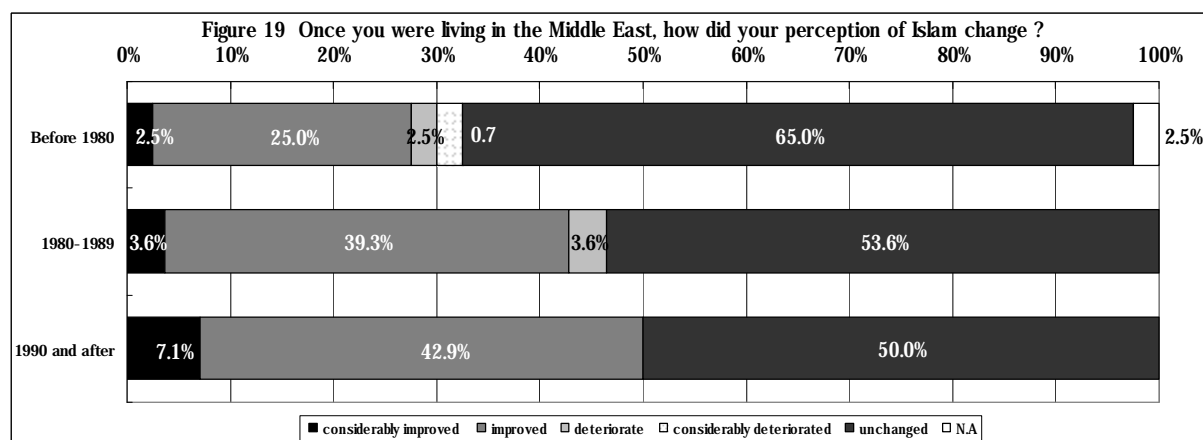


Table 10 Once you were living in the Middle East, how did your perception of Islam change?

Arrival in Middle East	Much improved	Somewhat improved	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Unchanged	N.A
Before 1980	2.5%	25.0%	2.5%	2.5%	65.0%	2.5%
1980-1989	3.6%	39.3%	3.6%		53.6%	
1990 and after	7.1%	42.9%			50.0%	
Total	3.6%	32.1%	2.4%	1.2%	59.5%	1.2%

These results indicate that, just as in the case the perception of the Middle East more generally, direct experience and better knowledge of Islam, as well as interaction with Muslims, brought about a favorable change in perceptions.

2.3 A Comment

Overall, the results presented in this section so far indicate that the perceptions of many Japanese businessmen of the Middle East tended to be relatively unfavorable before leaving Japan, but subsequently improved substantially upon having lived there for some time. This pattern suggests that their knowledge of and information on the Middle East before leaving Japan was insufficient, as recognized by many of the respondents themselves. However, once exposed to life in the Middle East, perceptions of society and Islam changed considerably.

Why did it happen? Probably, its answer is in the status of Japanese businessmen in their companies and their life style in the Middle East in the past as well as today. In fact, as illustrated in the Figure A, almost all of them are dispatched by their companies whose headquarters are located in Japan, as the corporate representatives of the local subsidiary. As a result, contrary to the non-Japanese businessmen who are working on the basis of direct contract with local company or individual (sponsor), Japanese businessmen are protected by their companies in business and daily life on one hand, they are living segregated from local societies.

Appendix: Survey questionnaire

I. Daily Life in the Middle East

[A] Living environment

Q101. Type of Residence

1. Household 2. Apartment 3. Compound 4. Hotel 5. Other ()

Q102. Residential area of respondent

1. High class 2. Middle class 3. Common area 4. Other ()

Q103. Interaction with locals

1. Very frequent 2. Frequent 3. Infrequent 4. Never

Q104. Employees in the house

			Q105
		1. Yes 2. No	Nationality 1. Local 2. Other ()
1	House maid		
2	Driver		
3	Others ()		

Q106. Language used in daily life (Multiple answers)

	Language	Frequency			
		Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
1	English				
2	French				
3	Local (Arabic, Turkish, Farsi, etc.)				
4	Others				

Q107. Did you read local newspapers?

		1. Quite often	2. Sometimes	3. Never
1	Local			
2	English			
3	Japanese			

Q108. Did you watch TV ?

		1. Quite often	2. Sometimes	3. Never
1	Local			
2	English			
3	Japanese			

[B] Adaptation to life in the Middle East

Q109. Were you worried about life in your host country before leaving Japan?

1. Very 2. Somewhat 3. Not much 4. Not at all
5. Don't know

Q110. What were you worried about? (Multiple and open answers)

1. Security 2. Adaptation of family to different culture (language, etc.) 3. Children's education
4. Medical care 5. Human relations
6. Other ()

Q111. Did you find it easy to adapt to life in your host country?

1. Very easy 2. Somewhat easy 3. Slightly difficult 4. Very difficult 5. Don't know

Q112. How long did it take you to adapt?

1. One month 2. 3 months 3. Half a year 4. One year 5. More than 1 year

Q113. What aspects made it difficult to adapt? (Multiple and open answers)

1. Language 2. Living environment 3. Diet 4. Transportation 5. Different customs
6. Climate 7. Human relations 8. Information/entertainment (newspapers, TV)
9. Rhythm of life 10. Other ()

Q114. Did you find your life in the Middle East pleasant?

1. Very 2. Somewhat 3. Not very 4. Not sure

Q115. Did you experience any problems in your daily life

Type of problem		Q116		
		1. Yes 2. No	Received assistance from?	1) Police 2) Embassy 3) Own company 4) Sponsor or client 5) Japanese friend 6) Local friend 7) Other
1	Traffic accident			
2	Theft			
3	Problems with landlord			
4	Problems with employees			
5	Money-related problems (fraud, etc.)			
6	Other ()			

[C] Customs and religion

Q117. Before leaving Japan, how was your perception of the Middle East?

1. Very good 2. Good 3. Bad 4. Very bad 5. Neither good nor bad

Q118-a. Once you were living in the Middle East, how did your perception change?

1. Much better 2. Somewhat better 3. Somewhat worse 4. Much worse 5. Unchanged

Q118-b. After returning to Japan, how did your perception change?

1. Much better 2. Somewhat better 3. Worse 4. Much worse
5. Unchanged

Q119. Reasons for change of perception (multiple answers)

Q120. Were you conscious of the religion of the people that you contact in the daily life?

1. Always 2. Sometimes 3. Rarely 4. Not at all 5. Don't know

Q121. Were you conscious of the religion of the people that you contact at the work place?

1. always 2. sometimes 3. Rarely 4. not at all 5. Don't know

Q122. Were you conscious of the sects to which the people you contact belong, such as Shia or Sunni?

1. Always 2. Sometimes 3. Rarely 4. Not at all 5. Don't know

Q123. Before leaving Japan, how was your perception of Islam ?

1. Very favorable 2. Favorable 3. Unfavorable 4. Very unfavorable
5. Neither favorable nor unfavorable

Q124-a. Once you were living in the Middle East, how did your perception of Islam change?

1. Much improved 2. Somewhat improved 3. Somewhat worse 4. Much worse
5. Unchanged

Q124-b. After returning to Japan, how did your perception of Islam change?

1. Much better 2. Somewhat better 3. Worse 4. Much worse
5. Unchanged

Q125. Reasons for change of perception (multiple answers)

II. Experience at work

[A] Work environment

Q201. Number of Japanese and local staff

		numbers
1	Japanese colleagues	person(s)
2	Local staff	person(s)
3	Other nationalities	person(s)

Q202. Language used in the work place (multiple answers)

	Language	Frequency			
		Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
1	English				
2	French				
3	Local (Arabic, Turkish, Farsi, etc.)				
4	Other ()				

Q203. How easy did you find it to adapt to work in your host country?

1. Very easy 2. Easy 3. Slightly difficult 4. Difficult 5. Can't say

Q204. What aspects made it difficult to adapt? (Multiple and open answers)

1. Language 2. Pace of work 3. Level of knowledge and technology 4. Local mentality
5. Lack of facilities and equipment 6. Negotiations with government and bureaucrats
7. Lack of information 8. Climate 9. Other ()

Q205. What kind of efforts did you make to help you adapt? (multiple and open answers)

1. Improve knowledge 2. Learn language 3. Consult with Japanese seniors and colleagues
4. Get support of locals and friends 5. Understand culture and religion
6. Get more information from Japan 7. Other ()

[B] Business climate

(1) Economic relations

Q206. Do you think exports from Japan to the Middle East will increase?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know.

Q207. If yes, exports of what items do you think will increase, and why?

Item:

Reason:

Q208. Do you think exports to Japan (other than crude oil) will increase?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know

Q209. If yes, exports of what items do you think will increase, and why?

Item:

Reason:

Q210. Do you think the investment from Japan in the country will increase?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know

Q211. If yes, investment in what industries will increase, and why?

Industry:

Reason:

Q212. Do you think investment from the country in Japan will increased?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know

Q213. If yes, investment in what fields will increase, and why?

Field:

Reason:

Q214. Are there any new items which will be exported from the country?

Q215. Do you think the Japanese government or company can make contribution to the development of your partner country in the Middle East? If so, what kinds of activities?

(2) Questions regarding doing business in the Middle East

Q216. Is business with the country getting easier?

1. Very much 2. Somewhat 3. No change 4. Getting difficult 5. Getting very difficult
6. Various problems

Q217. Please provide the reason (open-ended)

Q218. Problems experienced at work

	Type of problem		Q219	
			Received assistance from?	1) Police 2) Embassy 3) Own company 4) Sponsor or client 5) Japanese friend 6) Local friend 7) Other
1	Traffic accident			
2	Theft in the office			
3	Problems with sales contract			
4	Employment-related			
5	Other ()			

Q220. Do/Did you find your work in the host country rewarding?

1. Very 2. Somewhat 3. Not really 4. Not at all 5. Don't know

Q221. Please state the reason (open-ended)

Q222. In doing business, which country did you consider as a competitive threat from companies from a particular country?

			Q223
			Why ?
		1. Very much 2. Yes 3. Not so much 4. Never 5. Don't know	
1	USA		
2	EU		
3	China		
4	Korea		
5	Other ()		

Q224. Are you interested in Islamic finance?" If so, the answers should be:

1. Very much 2. Somewhat 3. Not very 4. Not at all 5. Don't know

Q225. Do you think Islamic finance will grow?

1. Very much 2. Somewhat 3. Not very 4. Not at all 5. Don't know

III. Characteristic of the respondents and family.

Q301. Age: 1. 20-29 years old 2. 30-39 3. 40-49 4. 50-59 5. 60 and over

Q302. Sex: 1. Male 2. Female

Q303. Marital status: 1. Married 2. Single

Q304. (If married) Nationality of the partner?

1. Japanese 2. Local national 3. Other national

Q305. (If married) Did your family move to the Middle East with you?

1. Went alone 2. Went with partner 3. Went with partner and children

Q306. (If married but went to Middle East alone) Main reason for going alone

1. Education of the children
2. Concern about life and security
3. Convenience for the family
4. Short stay
5. Other

Q307. (If married and went with children) Education of the children

1. International school
2. Japanese school
3. Local school
4. Under school age
5. Other

Q308. Academic background

1. Junior high school
2. High school
3. College or university

Q309. Working place and status

1. Japanese company
2. Own business: Type_____
3. Local or foreign company
4. Government or public sector
5. House wife
6. Others

Q310. Reason for transfer to Middle East

1. Assignment by the company
2. Marriage
3. Study
4. Other

Q312. Other foreign assignments:	Country	Period (From...to...)	Total
1			years
2			years
3			years
4			years
5			years

Q313. Area of residence in the country

1. Capital
2. Other ()

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