

MSAJ Annual Meeting, Nagoya, 2011 **17-19, September 2011/09/20**

Nagoya, 17-19 September 2011, the annual meeting of the Muslim Students Association in Japan (MSAJ) was held under the auspices of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY) in cooperation with the Islamic Center in Japan.

Many student associations from all over Japan took part in the meeting which lasted for three days. At least five people with their families represented each association. Generally, they were active and energetic.

Although the participants were mainly students representing almost 20 associations, there were also many Islamic Japanese organizations such as Association of Japanese Muslims, Association of the Islamic Endowment, the Islamic Center in Kyoto..etc.

Sr	City	Name of Local Society
1	Okayama	Okayama Muslims Association (OMSA)
2	Saitama	Saitama Muslim Student Association
3	Kitakyushu	Muslims association Kita Kyushu (MAKITA)
4	Kumamoto	Kumamoto Islamic Center (KIC)
5	Fukui	Fukui Muslim Association (FMA)
6	Tokushima-Shi	Tokushima Muslim Association (TMA)
7	Matsuyama	Matsuyama Islamic Culture Centre (MICC)
8	Osaka	Osaka Muslims Association (OMA)
9	Nagoya	Islamic Culture Association Nagoya University (ICANU)
10	Gifu	Gifu Muslims Association (GMA)
11	Tokyo	Tokyo University Islamic Cultural Society (TUICS)
12	Hiroshima	Hiroshima Muslim Association (HMA)
13	Kumamoto	Kumamoto Islamic Center (KIC)
14	Machida	Nagatsuta Muslim Student Organization (AMOSO)
15	Toyama	Toyama Muslim Students Community, Japan (TMSCJ)
16	Toyohashi	
17	Ishikawa	Ishikawa Muslim Society
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The main goal of this meeting was to promote the Dawah skills of the Muslim students in Japan and to refresh their role in the Japanese society.

A lecture in Japanese as well as a workshop held for the Japanese Muslims. The title of the lecture was “Understanding the Japanese personality”, whereas the workshop’s title was “what Japanese Muslims need from MSAJ”. More than twenty Japanese Muslims participated in these events where they enriched the discussion with their experience and opinions.

Detailed Report:

- **Name of the program**

The annual meeting of the Muslim Students Association in Japan (MSAJ).

- **Title**

Muslims and Islam in Japan, today and tomorrow.

Goals of the meeting:

- Developing the Islamic personality of the Muslim Youth.
- Getting to know the critical challenges that face Islamic organizations in Japan.
- Promoting and sharpening the Dawah skills of Muslim Youth living in Japan.
- Familiarizing Muslim Youth with their Dawah responsibilities.

General goals:

- Improving the relationship with Allah Almighty through an entire day full of different religious activities such as; reading Quran, mid-night prayer, Islamic lectures..etc.
- Promoting brotherhood bonds among students.
- Increasing students’ knowledge as far as the Islamic History is concerned.
- Sharing the sense of responsibility towards the different crises that afflict the Muslims all over the world.
- Trying to understand the Japanese personality and the easiest way to approach it.

Participants:

A hundred participants representing twenty associations from all over Japan took part in the meeting. The main targeted individuals were the heads of these associations,

members of the executive offices, former presidents of MSAJ, current MSAJ staff, students and researchers in Japan and all Muslims living in Japan.

Presenters:

Since the vast majority of the participants (80%) are non Arabic speaking people, MSAJ had to hold most of the activities in English language as it is the common language among all participants. Other activities were held in Japanese too.

Dr. Issam Alrifaii, a specialist in human resources, presented a lecture on the characteristics of the Dayah (who gives Dawah). Imam Mahdi Brai talked about the spirituality and its importance while delivering Dawah.

Dr. Ameen Mysotani, a Japanese Muslim and consultant in the Saudi Arabic Institute in Tokyo, talked about the characteristics of the Japanese personality. Also, Dr. Saleem, vice-chairman of the Islamic center in Kyoto, gave different suggestions on how to spread the Islamic message in the Japanese society.

Location:

All events of the meeting took place at Granita Hotel in Nagoya.