



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Lebanese Republic

Mr. OKUBO Takeshi was appointed as Ambassador of Japan to the Lebanese Republic in November 2019.

Prior to assuming the office, he had served as Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs, Representative of Japan to Palestine (2015-2019). He served in the Foreign Ministry as Director for Afghanistan Assistance Planning Division in the International Cooperation Bureau as well as the Special Coordinator for Middle Eastern Affairs (2013-2015).

Mr. Okubo held various overseas positions, mostly in Arab countries, adding up to 20 years in total. He was Political Director in the Japanese Embassy in Egypt (2010-2013), Counsellor of the Japanese Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2006-2010), and as a junior diplomat in Palestinian Authority, Syria, and Libya. During his time in the Arab world, as being a witness of history, i.e. Arab Spring in Egypt, Second Intifada in Palestine, etc., he sees it as enlightening experience that gave him full of insight, philosophy, vision and even friendship.

He entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982, after graduating from the University of Waseda (Faculty of Political Science), where he started his enthusiasm of studying Middle Eastern politics triggered by the historic visit of then President of Egypt Anwar Sadat to Israel to normalize the relations between the two nations. After joining the Ministry, he studied Arabic language in Damascus, Syria, where his younger son was born.