The Report from UNU conversation series on May 23.

The title was **“Transformation of Saudi Arabia and Geopolitics of the Middle East”**

By Prof. Bernard Haykel (Princeton University) with U.N.U researcher.

Maybe, it is because very complex topic, it seemed to be a little bit smaller audience than usual.

But I was deeply impressed by its carefully coordinated historical explanation by world level specialist.

As usual I would like to summarize it into 5 points.

1: Saudi and Iran are tow big enemy each other and Qatar and Yemen are use by Iran

as a base for attacking Saudi. That is the tragedy we are facing now.

2: Why Saudi issue is a MATTER to the wourld? Because what happens in Saudi will be felt by the world instantly. (OIL)

3: Is reform by Prince Mohammed real?

: The answer was interesting. His reform is real on culture(social) and economy but not politics

4: From this lecture, I made it sure again the fact that Obama’s policy was historically reversed dramatically from U.S’s traditional one in the Middle East . (He changed from SAUDI to Iran as an allied nation.

5: Last one is about Wahabi (Islamic doctrine). I could not follow Prf.’s explanation completely, but I could understand it is important to have some knowledge about it to think about Middle East conflict.

That is all for this time. We had four members (Ms. Hirai. Ms. Hiyoshi. Ms. Nagai and Kumada ) last night.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

May 24ht ,2018 By Kyoko Kumada