A visit by Dr. Eng. Naoko Fukami

Sunday 28th of October 2018

At the beginning Dr.Eng. Naoko Fukami: Director of the JSPS Research Station in Cairo gave a general idea about the Station and the projects it supports.

The JSPS station in Cairo was established in 1984, its basic job is collecting and introducing basic knowledge to activate scientific research and achieve knowledge cooperation between Japan and countries within the Middle East.

The Station also provides facilitations for the Japanese students visiting Egypt in order to collect information, to promote international intellectual cooperation between Japan and countries in the Middle East.

There are three people working in that station: Dr. Eng. Naoko Fukami the director, Sabrine a secretary and Mona an assistant.

The station holds a monthly cultural forum, to which they invite professors whether Egyptians or Japanese to present a lecture. There is a library including books in three languages: Japanese, Arabic and English, borrowing of these books is available.

Cairo Station is one of ten offices around the world. The headquarters of the Station is located in Tokyo.

Dr. Fukami asserts that the Station is an independent Scientific Organization, serving scientific researches and how they qualify the researches and the rules controlling this qualification.

The Station is also concerned about developing research fields and finding solutions for urgent issues to establish fundamental rule relating Japan and different countries around the world.

The JSPS provides a program called “Inviting Foreign Researcher” which aims at presenting support to foreign researchers and providing information about recent technological researches and scientific systems in other countries around the world.

The second part of the presentation was about the aesthetics of Islamic Architecture introducing the word Masjid and explains what does it mean in Islamic rituals, giving a glimpse about Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), his migration from Mecca to Madinah and the establishment of the first masjid at that time.

The parts of the masjid were presented in details, with infography on powerpoint slides showing the altar, the rostrum, the minaret and the overall structure of a masjid in different eras: The Umayyad and the Ottoman.

How the Christian churches, Jewish temples, Hindu and Buddhist architectures combined together and affected each other to result amazing structures. Here comes the mention of masjids in Japan, explaining its symmetry, locations and designers.

The last part of the presentation was about the current project introduced by the JSPS: Souq Al Selah in Old Cairo. A project which aims at raising awareness between the settlers about the history of the place, how it was in the main area of global heritage since the fourteenth century.