



March 24th, 2021: A special day Japan-Jordan Academic Diplomacy, Exchange, and Future Prospects



March 24th, 2021, a day before the graduation of the 5th TIAS batch, **Her Excellency Ms. Lina Annab, the Ambassador of Jordan to Japan**, visited the **University of Tsukuba (UT)** and the **Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS)** program (a Tokyo 2020 Legacy project) and **Tsukuba Science City**, the science city of Ibaraki Prefecture. The visit was a result of exchanges between the Ambassador and **Hada Atiyeh (TIAS 5th Student)**, with the intention to bridge and strengthen academic partnership and collaboration opportunities between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the University of Tsukuba. During this day-long visit, her excellency **Ms. Lina Annab** was welcomed by **Prof. Randeep Rakwal (TIAS)** and Hada Atiyeh at 11:30AM and took her and **Talal Masarweh (3rd Secretary and Consul)** on a facility tour around the campus from **Sport and Physical Education Facilities, TIAS and the Global Sport (GSI) Innovation Building** at the premises of the University up until **Jigoro Kano's statue** as a means to explain the history and the establishment of the university by **Jigorō Kanō** who was the first Asian IOC member contributing to the promotion of Olympic movement. By 13:30PM, the Ambassador was escorted to the **UT HQ** where the Jordan's flag was raised for the first time in history



alongside Japan's and University of Tsukuba flags as a symbol of appreciation and collaboration prospects between Japan and Jordan. Later she was briefly introduced to the **President of University of Tsukuba, Prof. Kyosuke Nagata**. The Ambassador was then welcomed by **Prof. Caroline F. Benton, Vice President of University of Tsukuba**, at the HQ where they exchanged mutual interests in providing the means and infrastructure by the University for the development of the practical skills of Jordanian youth and develop a connection with Jordanian universities. The Ambassador expressed her vision to **strengthen bilateral partnership and exchange opportunities for the Jordanian students and fresh graduates to have the opportunity to experience from a wide range of departments and discipline offered at the University of Tsukuba campus**. Additionally, stating her desire to enable a long-term commitment to build a sustainable method that would benefit all parties involved including the faculty staff and students from both countries.



(at the GSI building – TIAS and TIAS 2.0 Degree programs, with FACULTY and STUDENTS)

The day was followed with a meeting at the GSI building where **Prof. Hisashi SANADA (Chair of TIAS, and Director of CORE – Center for Olympic Research and Education)** welcomed and introduced the Ambassador to the TIAS Faculty. The meeting was primarily attended by **Prof. Randeep RAKWAL, Prof. Koyo FUKUSAWA, the Chair of the TIAS 2.0** (<http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/tias2/>), and the **Dean of the Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences, Prof. Takeshi NISHIYASU. Prof. FUKUSAWA** was tremendously overjoyed by the presence of the Ambassador of Jordan because there have been many collaborative projects between his **home town (AKITA prefecture-Noshiro City) the Host Town City that cheers for Jordan.** The professors provided a brief history of their experience and their hand in initiating the Olympic legacy program. **Prof. SANADA provided a summary of TIAS history and future vision.**

The Ambassador also met and interacted with the **students of the 5th Batch** of TIAS (<http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/>) and also the **new TIAS 2.0 Degree Program students** (<http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/tias2/>, continuing the legacy of TIAS); as well as meeting **Prof. Alexis LYRAS** (TIAS; and O4H founder, <https://o4ha.org/>) and **Prof. Takahiro SATO** (Chair of the IDS program; <https://tkjids.taiiku.tsukuba.ac.jp/>). **Prof. RAKWAL** provided a booklet with previous programs/projects and collaborations with various countries.

The day-long visit ended at MIZUHONOMURA ICHIBA, a farmer's market, a well-known organization for the high standards in quality assurance and sustainable agricultural development; an agency and institution in the community that reflects the values and tradition of the Japanese heritage and culture. The day long visit provided a unique opportunity for **Her Excellency Ms. Lina Annab, the Ambassador of Jordan to Japan,** to not only see first-hand the **Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences (TAIKU,** <https://www.taiiku.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/>), but also meet and interact with various Professors and students, and enjoy the green campus of Tsukuba and some key aspects of the Tsukuba city.

Thank you,

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**Hada Atiyeh, M.Sc., M.A.
Postgraduate of 2021**

Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences Master's Program in
Physical Education, Health and Sport Sciences
Email: hadaatiyeh@hotmail.com
Mobile- (+971)050-2234572

**Randeep RAKWAL, Ph.D.
Professor,**

Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences, Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS 2.0),
Global Sport Innovation Bldg., Room 403, UNIVERSITY OF TSUKUBA,
1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8574, Japan
Email - plantproteomics@gmail.com - rakwal.randeep.fu@u.tsukuba.ac.jp (office)
Mobile – (+81) 090-1853-7875 / Office phone – (+81)029-853-2681
Website: <http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/tias2/>, <http://www.trios.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/researcher/0000003045>

LINKS:

1. <https://jordanembassyjapan.com/>
2. <https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/>
3. <http://www.taiiku.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/>
4. <http://core.taiiku.tsukuba.ac.jp/>
5. <https://www.sport4tomorrow.jpnsport.go.jp/>