



# **Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies**



Mahmood Sariolghalam



Sharyar Niazi

Established in 2001, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS), is the thinktank of the Center for Scientific Research and Middle East Strategic Studies (which is established in 1994). The Center itself comprises of IMESS, Iran-Arab Friendship Associations, and a Publication Office.

IMESS undertakes all the research activities of the Center including the publication of The Middle East Quarterly and Regional Studies Quarterly (both in Persian), Discourse, an Iranian Quarterly (in English) and The Iranian-Arab Affairs Quarterly and Shu'n al-Awsat (both in Arabic). Op-eds, essays and policy papers are also published at the Institute's Persian, English and Arabic websites. IMESS also holds national and international workshops and conferences during each academic year.

IMESS has several resident and visiting research fellows who conduct scholarly works in different research study groups. It has also a predoctoral and post-doctoral research program during each academic year. The fellow scholars engage in the Institute's research activities and their works will be published in the Institute's scientific quarterlies and websites.

Dr. Seyed Hossein Mousavi is the Executive chair of the Center. Professor Mahmood Sariolghalam of Shahid Beheshti University was the first chair and one of the founders of IMESS. Later, Professor Shahryar Niazi of Tehran University was appointed as the Director of IMESS.

Currently, Professor Kayhan Barzegar of the Science and Research Branch of the Islamic Azad University is the Director of the Institute.



Seyed Hossein Mousavi



Kayhan Barzegar







#### **IMESS Seminar with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu**



Turkish Foreign Minister Professor. Ahmet Davutoglu and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar

On November 26, 2013, Turkish Foreign Minister Professor Ahmet Davutoglu visited the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies and participated in a public discussion with the Institute's resident and visiting fellows, university professors, and Ph.D. and MA students from different universities in Tehran. Director of IMESS, Professor Kayhan Barzegar moderated the session. The complete report of this session can be found at www.en.cmess.ir.







Foreign Minister Davutoglu: In the next five years, if there will not be sanctions, Turkish-Iranian trade would be 100 billion dollars, because we need energy and Iranian- Turkish markets together are the two most dynamic markets in the world, young population, very assertive. And, also because of transport corridors, the longest transport corridor from north west to southeast is Turkish-Iranian. My dream one day is that Trabzon and Bandar Abbas, these transportation links will be the busiest ports because it is the shortest of Euro-Asia, and from Trabzon you can reach through rivers up to Baltics and to Danube to Central Europe and Turkey can reach from Bandar Abbas to the Indian Ocean. There is a huge potential. This is how we should look for the future; this is our vision.



Iranian professors, scholars and graduate students listening to Professor Davutoglu



Hamid Ahmadi, Professor of Political Science, Tehran University and Deputy Director of IMESS in the Q & A session



FM Davutoglu and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar exchange views



Q & A session





Foreign Minister Davutoglu and IMESS Faculty Members and Fellows

#### IMESS Inaugurates its 2012-2013 Academic Year's Visiting Fellow Program

On November 8, 2012, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies inaugurated its 2012-2013 Visiting Research Fellow Program. IMESS' resident fellows and newly joined visiting fellows attended the session.



Resident and Visiting Research Fellows, the 2012- 2013 Academic Year

On November 8, 2012, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies inaugurated its 2012-2013 Visiting Research Fellow Program. A number of university professors, resident fellows and newly joined visiting fellows attended the session. Dr. Seyed Hossein Mousavi, Executive Chair of the Center for Scientific Research and Middle East Strategic Studies, Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Director of IMESS, Dr. Hamid Ahmadi, Deputy Director of IMESS, Dr. Ghadir Nasri and Dr. Seyed Abdolamir Nabavi, Senior Researchers at IMESS addressed the session and elaborated on some points regarding the significance of the Visiting Research Fellow Program at IMESS.

At the start of the session, Dr. Barzegar welcomed the guests, inviting Dr. Mousavi for an introductory speech. The Executive Chair of the Center regarded the IMESS' Visiting Research Program as a great opportunity in the country, calling on the new appointed researchers to demonstrate their research capabilities, generate their scientific ideas and to cooperate with one another in research endeavors as well as supporting a proper strategy in the conduct of Iranian foreign policy during the Program.

He also expressed hope that the new course will provide fresh prospects for the research activities of IMESS, stressing that the objective of IMESS is to bring younger scholars into contact with Iran's diplomatic and executive bodies as well as playing an outstanding research role in the academic arena through their publications of Persian, English and Arabic quarterlies, taking key steps in making applicable scientific contributions. He pointed out that over the past two decades IMESS has managed to earn an outstanding academic reputation as an independent research institution close to the diplomatic apparatus.

Then Dr. Barzegar cited the success of the previous academic years' experience and the existing void in the country's academic and research arena as reasons for holding the new visiting research program. He noted that the program aims to train a new generation of researchers who combine academic and theoretical aspects of foreign policy studies together.



From left: Seyed Hossein Mousavi and Hamid Ahmadi



From left: Dr. Ghadir Nasri, Dr. Hamid Ahmadi, Dr. Kayhan Barzegar and Dr. Seyed Abdolamir Nabavi



Dr. Sheida Mahnam, Visiting Research Fellow

He also asserted that the program seeks to strengthen the country's research system by training new generations of researchers who write and think in context of preserving the country's national interests, based on political-security and the societal characteristics of the Iranian society. He also mentioned that this pre-doctoral and post-doctoral program is in fact the continuation of the academic trainings, in a professional research environment, like that of the IMESS.

The Director of IMESS noted that the abovementioned goal can be achieved through active participation of the fellows in the IMESS' activities such as participating in the Study Groups' weekly and monthly seminars, attending designated research workshops, cooperating in organizing conferences and seminars, producing scientific-research articles and short professional policy-papers for the IMESS' websites, as well as participating in the Iran-Arab Friendship Association as part of the Center's activities and etc.

Dr. Barzegar pointed out to Iran's growing role and influence in regional and international equations, enumerating the characteristics of a researcher, including familiarity with the pressing international political subjects and the current research trends in the global, intellectual arenas such as the regional and global nuclear disarmament, Middle Eastern studies, energy security, environmental issues, human rights, international organizations and etc. He maintained that the sound understanding of Iran's national security and interests requires an accurate understanding of the relations with regional and global powers. Dr. Barzegar noted that in order to achieve that goal it is required to train a new generation of researchers who are capable of combining the conceptual-theoretical and policy making aspects of research with a progressive, accommodative, problem-solving, balanced, and interactive approach. Later on in the session, Dr. Hamid Ahmadi hailed the Visiting Research Fellow Program as a "proper opportunity for researchers to perform extensive activities and to nurture their talents." He underlined the important role of Iran, Egypt and Turkey in the Middle East and pinpointed the objectives of IMESS for the promotion of Middle Eastern studies. The Deputy Director of IMESS expressed regret over the lack of experts, works and proper literature in Middle Eastern studies, highlighting the need for performing further research and contributing to the required literature in the country. Dr. Ghadir Nasri, head of the Intellectual Trends Studies Group, as the next speaker, mentioned the considerable void in studies on many political issues in the Middle East and called on the researchers to cooperate and play a more active role in various scientific and research fields, particularly in the ongoing regional developments and Middle Eastern discussions, in line with Iran's national interests. He also noted that, "studying different mentalities of the intellectual trends in the region and avoiding mere philosophical approaches are among the main objectives of this Study Group."



Visiting research fellows at the inaugurating session



Mohammad Farazmand, Senior Visiting Fellow



Simin Behbahani, Visiting Research Fellow

The last speaker was Dr. Abdolamir Nabavi, the head of the Egypt and North African Studies Group. Drawing upon his experience in the Middle Eastern Studies' Quarterly, he underlined the effectiveness of some of the contents of the quarterly in foreign policy and international relations, elaborating on some issues with regard to essay writing and its potential risks. He underscored the importance of countries such as Egypt in the region and in Iran's regional policy, introducing the activities of this Study Group.



Abbas Tajik, Visiting Research Fellow



Nasrin Ghanavati, Visiting Research Fellow



Mohammad Soltanine jad, Visiting Research Fellow



Visiting research fellows introducing themselves at the inaugurating session

#### Egypt and North Africa Studies Group holds seminars



Farzad Poursaeid, researcher of Middle East studieis



Ahmed Mostafa Egyption researcher

The Egypt and North Africa study group at the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies focuses on issues related to Egypt and North Africa. IMESS' visiting research fellows are the main members of this study group.



Head of the Group: Dr. Seyed Abdolamir Nabavi, senior researcher and a political science professor



Assiatant of the Group: Monir Hozouri, a Ph.D. condidate at Azad University in Tehran

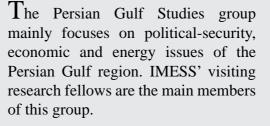
#### Persian Gulf Studies Group holds seminars



Mohammad Farazmand Former Iranian ambassador to Bahrain and Senior Visiting Research Fellow at IMESS



Ali Zeinivand Ph.D. candidate and Visiting Research Fellow



**Head of the Group:** Dr. Seyed Javad Salehi, senior researcher and a political science professor



Assistant of the Group: Somayeh Morovati, a Ph.D. candidate at Azad University in Tehran



From right: Prof. Hermidas Bavand, Prof. Pirooz Mojtahedzadeh

# IMESS Seminar with Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs



Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar



On June 2, 2013, Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs, visited the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies. In this informal encounter, he exchanged his views on the regional issues and especially the Syrian crisi with the Institute's resident and visiting fellows, as well as a number of faculty members, Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities



in Tehran. Director of IMESS Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, moderated the session.

Deputy FM Amir-Abdollahian: "...if [Russia] leaves Syria at the end of the day, Iran will continue its support for Syria stronger than ever. We want to show the U.S. and send it this message that the Islamic Republic of Iran offers full support to its allies in the context of its strategic logic."



Dr. Amir-Abdollahian in the reception



Hadi Nasiri, Visiting Research Fellow in the Q & A session

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Somayeh Morrovati, Visiting Research Fellow in the Q & A session





From right: Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Dr. Seyed Hossein Mousavi and Mr. Mohammad Ali Mohtadi



Group photo: Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and the Institute's Faculty Members and Fellows

#### Dr. Seyed Hussein Mousavi's Article published at the IMESS website: Egypt Military Is Just Repeating Past Mistakes/ May 27, 2014- www.en.cmess.ir

Many political observers and thinkers in the third millennium have argued that in an era of information explosion and with the relentless spread of democracy throughout the



world, and also after the termination of the Cold War and the fall of the former Soviet Union, the time for a phenomenon known as military coups in the Third World countries is over and military personnel should go back to their barracks. Early signs that indicated the dawn of a new era confirmed the wholesomeness of this theory because [since the beginning of the third millennium] there were few countries, if any, where the army had taken action to topple the ruling government and give the power to the military.

## IMESS-SWP Joint Seminar on "The Regional Developments in the Light of the Arab Spring"

On November 13, 2012, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS) in collaboration with the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) held a joint seminar on "The Regional Developments in the Light of Arab Spring". The IMESS resident and visiting fellows as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran attended the session. From the IM-ESS' side, Professor Kayhan Barzegar, Director of IMESS and Professor Hamid Ahmadi, Deputy Director of IMESS, and from the SWP's side, Professor Volker Perthes, Director of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and Dr. Muriel Asseburg Senior Researcher at SWP exchanged their views on the afore-mentioned subject.



From left: Prof. Volker Perthes, Prof. Kayhan Barzegar, Dr. Muriel Asseburg and Prof. Hamid Ahmadi

At the beginning of the session, Professor Kayhan Barzegar, as the moderator of the session, started off by saying that the Arab Spring has simultaneously brought about opportunities and challenges for Iran. Then, he pointed out the differences between the EU and the U.S. in dealing with Iran in the region maintaining that the EU would rather define its relations with Iran in the context of the common interests accepting Iran as a regional power whereas the U.S. defines the two sides' relations in the context of the balance of power aiming to contain Iran's regional role. He also maintained that it to eliminate Iran's regional affairs is a constant in the conduct of Iran's regional policy.

Regarding the Arab Spring, he mentioned that Iran has sought a soft landing of the changes in countries like Egypt and Tunisia and finding a peaceful solution in countries like Syria and Bahrain in the context of gradual political transformation, to the extent that the pillars of the states stay intact. Regarding the US-Iranian relations in the region, he maintained that putting the issue in the traditional



resistance-reconciliation block is rather inappropriate today because of the fact that Iran's regional policy is shifting into a strengthened regional cooperation; finding regional solutions for regional issues. Following such a policy will give Iran more significance in the region. Finally, he asserted that destructing the pillars of the states' power will lead to further tensions and instability in the already fragile Middle East.



Spanish Ambassador His Excellency Pedro Antonio Villena Perez and German researcher

Professor Volker Perthes mentioned that no country will be unaffected in the Middle East by the latest waves of changes. Referring to the situation in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, he raised important questions like: "can we really expect Saudi Arabia to still be the same as it is today in twenty years from now"? Regarding the situation in Bahrain, he maintained that if the Bahraini regime is not able to give equal citizen rights to everybody, Bahrain will not be able to remain stable.

Then, he pointed out the role of the factor of demography in the Arab Spring arguing that the young generations who triggered the revolutions have not really been the winners of the revolutions so far and they are likely to challenge regimes in the region in the future. He also pointed to a new geopolitical rivalry between the Wahhabi model and the Muslim Brotherhood model after the Arab Spring. Then, he maintained that if we want

solutions in the Middle East, Iran has to have a place at the table. In the questions and answers' section, the audience exchanged their views with the speakers and brought up some questions as well as commenting on some issues.



Professor Volker Perthes from SWP



Dr. Muriel Asseburg from SWP



Audience at the session



Group photo: German research delegation and IMESS research fellows

#### IMESS-CENESS Joint Seminar on "Russia and the Middle East WMD Free Zone"



Dr. Anton V. Khlopkov and Dr.Kayhan Barzegar

On June 9, 2013, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS) in collaboration with the Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS) in Moscow held a joint seminar on "Russia and the Middle East WMD Free Zone." IMESS' resident and visiting research fellows, faculty members, as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran attended the seminar. Dr. Anton V. Khlopkov, Director of CENESS exchanged his views with the audience on the aforementioned subject. Director of IMESS Dr. Kayhan Barzegar moderated the seminar.



Russia Ambassador H. E. Lavan Jagariyaan



From left: Finnish Ambassador H. E. Harri Kamarainen and Danish Ambassador H. E. Anders Christian Hougard

Dr. Khlopkov: I think Russia's policy and interest, is not based on being against Iran or against the West. Rather it is based on preserving the Russian national security and interests and I would say that probably there are two majors when we discuss nuclear process. First, Russia as a depository of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

in no way is interested in further destabilization and de-universalization of the NPT.

Furthermore, Iran is a very important neighbor of Russia and Russia is very much interested to keep balanced and well-developed relations with Iran. From my point of view, this is the basis for Russia's policy.



Anton V. Khlopkov of CENESS at IMESS







Q & A session



Audience in the reception





With regard to the UN Security Council resolution, first there was a conclusion by the IAEA that Iran violated its safeguards obligation, not the NPT but its IAEA safeguards obligations. This issue was reported to the UN Security Council and Russia's policy from the very beginning was well-balanced; it was well-balanced and Russia promoted, I would say, very well-developed approach. What makes Russia to vote for some resolutions, again, you should keep in mind that the resolution was approved, not in the form as it was introduced; it was a negotiating process and I think that in most cases, Russia was trying to keep it well-balanced and to keep a window of opportunity to resolve the crisis open because there were some other news with the UN Security Council's resolution.

Second, I remember that Russia's experts, sometimes officials, promoted an approach that those examples of undeclared activities which took place in Iran in the past, now most of all key facilities of Iran are under the IAEA safeguards and unfortunately, we know that one day the so-called Fordow facility was disclosed by Iran. So, from their point of view, confidence building to resolve the crisis is very important and we should keep it as one of the key elements for further discussion.



Anton V. Khlopkov among the IMESS researchers



From left: Dr. Suleyman Sensoy, Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Dr. Murat Bilhan and Dr. Hamid Ahmadi

**Dr. Süleyman Şensoy:** According to the surveys of public opinion in Turkey, Turkish people do not approve of many of the actions that the Syrian regime has so far carried out. However if Turkey wants to have a military encounter with Syria, the public opinion in Turkey will not accept it. The reason is that Syria is a Muslim state and this will definitely impact the public opinion in Turkey. Turkish government has always made it known that Turkey has no intention to have military intervention in Syria, it rather seeks cooperation and peace.

# IMESS-TASAM Joint Seminar on "The Iran-Turkey Relations in Post-Arab Spring's Middle East"

On December 25, 2012 the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS) in collaboration with the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM) held a joint seminar on "The Iran-Turkey Relations in Post-Arab Spring's Middle East." The IMESS resident and visiting fellows, as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran attended the seminar. From the IMESS' side, Director of IMESS Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, and Deputy Director of IMESS Dr. Hamid Ahmadi, and from the TASAM's side, Chairman of TASAM Dr. Suleyman Sensoy, Vice-Chairman of TASAM Dr. Murat Bilhan, exchanged their views on the afore-mentioned subject.





Dr. Sheida Mhanam, Visiting Research Fellow in the Q & A session



Audience in the session



Audience in the session

Ambassador Umit Yardim: I personally believe in the competition of nations, it is a positive thing. So, if there is no competition, there is no development. But my personal emphasis is not on competition between nations but competition between regions. So, I take the Middle East as an example. In principle, with the latest short historical perspective which exceeds the



Turkish Ambassador His Excellency Umit Yardim (Left)

Middle East - for global history from 9 or 10th century to 18-19th century our current region was on the winning side.



Amirhossein Teymouri in the Q & A session



Turkish research delegation and IMESS research fellows

#### Visiting Research Fellow Maryam Pashang's article published at the IMESS website: Iran's Oil Sanctions, Threatening International Energy Security/ Febraury 5, 2013- www.en.cmess.ir

International sanctions against Iran's oil sector have slowed down development of energy resources in Iran, on the one hand, while making it more difficult for customers of the country's



n Iran, on the one hand, while making it more difficult for customers of the country's oil to access Iran's energy reserves, on the other hand. Now, the question is what impact can international sanctions against the Iranian oil sector have on global energy security? According to "resource scarcity model" of Amineh and Houweling, due to its huge oil and natural gas reserves, Iran is an important player in international energy markets. Therefore, imposing sanctions against Iran's energy sector can pose a serious threat to global energy security. Economic sanctions are usually imposed in order to help the sanctioning party achieve certain political goals. Therefore, economic sanctions are usually a means of following up on a country's foreign policy goals. In fact, the main objective of economic war against a country is to do as much damage to economic activities of the country under sanctions as possible.

### IMESS-IFAS Joint Seminar on "Europe and the Middle East WMD Free Zone"

On September 1, 2013, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS) in collaboration with the French Institute for Strategic Analysis (IFAS) in Paris held a joint seminar on "Europe and the Middle East WMD Free Zone." IMESS' resident and visiting research fellows, faculty members, as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran attended the seminar. Dr. François Géré, Director of IFAS exchanged his views with the audience on the aforementioned subject. Director of IMESS Dr. Kayhan Barzegar moderated the seminar.



Dr. François Géré among the IMESS researchers





Dr. Mohammadreza Saeedabadi, Tehran University Professor



# IMESS-IPSA Joint Seminar on "Two Years after the Egypt's January 25 Revolution: Challenges and Opportunities for the Region"

On February 24, 2012, a joint seminar on "Two Years after the Egypt's January 25 Revolution: Lessons and Achievements" was conducted by the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS) and the Institute for Political Science Association IPSA. In the beginning of the session Dr. Kayhan Barzegar the director of IMESS and Dr. Seyed Abdolamir Nabavi the head of the seminar and the head of the Egypt, North Africa Study group, introduced some issues as a starting point for the semi-



Q & A Sessoin



From left: Mohammad Soltanineja, Farzad Poursaeid, Seyed Javad Salehi and Abazar Barari

nar. At the first round of talk Mr. Farzaad Poursaied, a faculty member of the Institute for Strategic Studies, Mr. Mohahamad Soltaninejad and Mr. Abazar Barari, both IMESS' visiting research fellows, made presentations.





Audience in the reception



From right: Dr. Ghadir Nasri, Dr. Mandana Tisheyar, Dr. Morteza Bahrani and Dr. Abbas Khalaji

At the beginning of the second round of talk Dr. Mojtaba Maghsoudi, the President Iran's Political Science of Association, raised some points. Dr. Mandana Tisheyar, an Iras Senior Institute researcher, chaired the session. Dr. Ghadir Nasri, Dr. Morteza Bahrani and Dr. Abbas Khalaji exchanged their views with the audience.



IMESS Seminar on "Two Years after the Egypt's January 25 Revolution: Challenges and Opportunities for the Region" group photo



IMESS' Visiting Research Fellows attended the Meeting with Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations at the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS).





Professor Seyed Mohammadkazem Sajjadpour moderates the meeting

# Professor Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour of the School of International Relations makes a presentation at the IMESS workshop on "The Role of Theory in International Relations' Studies"

On February 8, 2012, IMESS held its second workshop of the 2012-2013 Aademic Year on "The Role of Theory in International Relations' Studies." IMESS' resident and visiting research fellows and faculty members attended this workshop. Professor Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sadjjadpor a faculty member at the School of International Relations gave a lecture.



Visiting research fellows at the workshop



Group photo: Ambassador Sajjadpour and the workshop participants



From left: Ambassador Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar







Dr. Rojan Hesamghazi, Visiting Research Fellow in the Q  $\&\,A\,session$ 



Audience in the reception

# IMESS-DIIS Joint Seminar on "The Arab Revolutions and the Regional Actors"



From left: Dr. Helle Malmwig and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar

On November 6, 2012, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS) in collaboration with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) held a joint seminar on "The Arab Revolutions and the Regional Actors." Dr. Helle Malmwig, Senior Researcher at the DIIS and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Director of IMESS exchanged their views on the subject of the session.



Dr. Helle Malmwig making a presentation at IMESS



Group photo: Danish research delegation and IMESS research fellows



Professor Hamid Ahmadi of Tehran University in the Q & A Session



Janne Bjerre Christensen of DIIS in the Q & A Session



DHS researcher and Ali Tiztak of Iran's Foreign Ministry in the reception session



Dr. Fabrizio Tassinari of DIIS in the Q & A Session

#### IMESS' Intellectual Trends Studies Group hold seminars



From left: Maryam Esmaeilifard, Mojtaba Gholipour, Tayebeh Domanlou, Mahjmoudreza Moghaddamshad, Hossein Mahdian, Salman Sadeghizadeh and Seyed Morteza Fattahi (all research fellows at IMESS)



Professor Mahmoud Sariolghalam of Shahid Beheshti University



From left: Dr. Morteza Bahrani, Dr. Ghadir Nasri and Dr. Seyed Abdolamir Nabavi



**Head of the Group:** Dr. Ghadir Nasri, a Senior Researcher and a political science professor



Assistant of the Group: Tayebeh Domanlou, a Ph.D. candidate at Tehran University



From left: Maryam Pashang, Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Dr. Rahmat Hajimineh and Zahra Tavakoli



# IMESS Workshop on "The Art of Writing Short Articles"

On November . 30, 2012 IMESS held its first workshop of the 2012-2013 Academic Year on "The Art of Writing Short Articles". IMESS' visiting research fellows attended this workshop. Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Director of IMESS, Ms. Maryam Pashang, Dr. Rahmat Hajimineh and Ms. Zahra Tavakoli exchanged their views and experiences on the subject of the session.



Audience in the workshop



From left: Iran's Ambassador to Russia Mahmoud Reza Sajjadi and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar



### Ambassador Mahmoud Reza Sajjadi Visits IMESS

On July 23, 2012, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies, hosted Mahmoud Reza Sajjadi, Iran's Ambassador to Russia, for a

seminar. The IMESS resident and visiting fellows as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran attended the session. Ambassador Sajjadi, in his presentation, highlighted Russia's position in Iran's foreign policy, Russia's foreign policy in the Middle East as well as the outlook of Russia-US relations in Vladimir Putin's terms. In the beginning of the session, Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, focused on the existing pessimistic and optimistic views of Iran's foreign policy towards Russia.





O & A session

Ambassador Sajjadi among the IMESS fellows

#### Visiting Research Fellow Mohammad Soltaninejad's Article published at the IM-ESS website:

"Shifts in the Iranian-Turkish Balance of Soft Power," June 22, 2013, www.en.cmess.ir

During the June 2013, Iran and Turkey have witnessed important internal developments that are going to affect their international standing. These effects, however, have been demonstrated in



two different ways. While in Turkey there are ongoing anti-government and violent protests, in Iran, a much more constructive change took shape through a mass turnout in free and fair elections. These developments have affected the state-society relations in both countries that will ultimately leave impacts on the two countries share of soft power in regional equations. In the Turkish case, a new divide between state and society has come to the surface and anti government protests have endured for more than three weeks. Iran, however, has witnessed diminishing of social frictions. Through election of a centrist and moderate president, the once deepening gaps between the traditional right and left in the political spectrum is mended.

### Conflict and Cooperation in the Middle East Study Group seminars



IMESS' Middle East Conflict and Cooperation Study Group concentrates on changes, challenges and cooperation among the regional, trans- regional players in the Middle East. IMESS' visiting research fellows are the main members of this study group.



**Head of the Group:** Dr. Hamid Ahmadi, Senior Researcher and a political science professor







Assistant of the Group: Maryam Motiee, a Ph.D. candidate, Azad University in Tehran Azad



From left: Dr. Seyed Asadollah Athari, Dr. Rahmat Hajimineh, and Dr. Seyed Asghar Kayvan-Hosseini of Allame Tabatabai University



From right: Hossein Vahid, Mohammad Salim Ozban and Sahar Taghipour

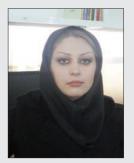


IMESS Turkish Studies Group holds seminars

IMESS' Turkish Studies Group concentrates on issues related to Turkey and its impact on other regional and trans -regional players.



Head of the Group: Dr. Seyed Asadollah Athari, Senior Researcher and a political science professor



Assiatant of the Group: Sahar Taghipour



Dr. Homeira Moshirzadeh and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar

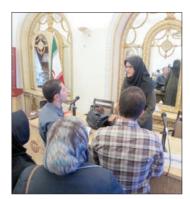


# Dr. Homeira Moshirzadeh, Professor of Political Science in Tehran University at the IMESS Workshop on "The Art of Writing Long Scientific Articles,"

On June 27, 2012, IMESS held the third workshop of the 91-92 academic years on "The Art of Writing Long Scientific Articles". IMESS' resident and visiting research fellows, as well as some PhD and postgraduate students attended this workshop. Dr. Homeiyra Moshirzadeh, a faculty member of Tehran University's Department of Law and Political Science, gave a speech. Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, a faculty member and Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Science and Research Branch of the Azad University, chaired the session.



Audience in the reception



Audience in the Q & A session





Group photo: Dr. Moshirzadeh and IMESS' visiting research fellows





Dr. Rouzbeh Parsi and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar

### IMESS Seminar with Rouzbeh Parsi on "Europe, Iran, and the Arab World Developments"

On January 17, 2013, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies held a seminar with Dr. Rouzbeh Parsi, a Senior Research Fellow at the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) on "Europe, Iran and the Arab Developments."



From left: Saeid Shokouhi and Dr. Hossein Ahmadi (visitng research fellows)



Rouzbeh Hatmi M.A. in Regional Studies from the Islamic Azad University, Central Tehran Branch







Fahimeh Ghorbani, a research fellow in the Q & A session



Audience in the reception



Group photo: Dr. Parsi and IMESS' research fellows

#### IMESS' Egypt and North Africa Study and Intellectual Trends Groups Holds a Joint Seminar on "The Islamists Experiences in the New Egypt and Turkey,"



From left: Dr. Davoud Feirahi and Dr. Seyed Abdolamir Nabavi



On May 26, 2013, a joint seminar on "The Islamist Experience in the New Egypt and Turkey "was conducted by IMESS' North Africa and Intellectual Trends groups . Dr. Davood Farihi, a professor of religious jurisprudence and political thinking, was the speaker of this session.



Group photo: resident & visiting research fellows and Ph.D. students in the seminar

# IMESS Middle East and the Great Powers Studies Group hold seminars



IMESS' Middle East and Great Powers Studies Group concentrates on studying the great powers' roles and policies in the Middle East region. IMESS' visiting research fellows are the main members of the so called group.



**Head of the Group:** Dr. Hossein Daheshyar, Senior Researcher and a political science professor







Assiatant of the Group: Zahra Mahmoudi a Ph.D. candidate, Azad University in Tehran

# **IMESS-AMU** Joint Seminar on "Iran, Poland and the Middle East"

On May 21, 2013, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS) in collaboration with Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) held a joint seminar on "Iran, Poland and the Middle East."



From right: Prof. Hamid Ahmadi, Prof. Radoslaw Fiedler, Prof. Kayhan Barzegar, Prof. Tadeusz Wallas and the translator







Polish Ambassador H. E. Juliusz Jacek Gojlo in the Q & A session



From left: Hungarian Ambassador H.E. Gyula Petho and Danish Ambassador H. E. Anders **Christian Hougard** 

IMESS' resident and visiting research fellows, faculty members, as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran attended the seminar. His Excellency Ambassador Juliusz Jacek Gojlo of Poland, His Excellency Ambassador Gyula Petho of Hungary, His Excellency Ambassador Hari Kamarainen of Finland and His Excellency Ambassador Anders Christian Hougard of Denmark also attended this academic meeting. From the IMESS' side Professor Kayhan Barzegar, Director of IMESS and Professor Hamid Ahmadi, Deputy Director of IMESS, and from AMU's side, Professor Tadeusz Wallas, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science

and Journalism at AMU, and Professor Radoslaw Fiedler, faculty member of Political Science and Journalism at AMU, exchanged their views on the aforementioned subject.



Group photo: Polish research delegation and IMESS research fellows



Dr. Seyed Vahid Karimi Director of Eroup Studies Group at IPIS



IMESS' Seminar with Lebanese Political Science Professors on "The Regional Developments in the Light of the Arab Revolutions"



From right: Mohammad Ali Mohtadi, Dr. Ghassan Alezy, Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Dr. Mohammad Noureddin and Dr. Talal Etrissi

On December 12, 2012, the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies held a seminar with the participation of Lebanese political science professors on "The Regional Developments in the Light of the Arab Revolutions".

The IMESS resident and visiting fellows, as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran attended the seminar. Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Director of IMESS and chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch in Tehran, Mr. Mohammad Ali Mohtadi, Senior Research Fellow at IMESS, Dr. Mohammad Noureddin, Professor of Political Science in Beirut University and Senior Analyst of Middle Eastern Affairs, Dr. Talal Etrissi, Professor of Sociology in Beirut University and Senior Analyst of Middle Eastern Affairs, and Dr. Ghassan Alezy, Professor of Political Science in Beirut University and Senior Analyst of Middle Eastern Affairs, exchanged their views on the afore-mentioned subject.





Group photo: Lebanese political science professors and IMESS research fellows

# Foreign Minister Dr. Salehi Visits the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies

**O**n April 30, 2012, Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS). In this informal encounter, he shared his views with the Institute's resident and visiting fellows as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran. The chair of this meeting was Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, the director of the IMESS.



From left: Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi and Dr. Kayhan Barzegar





Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi and the Institute's faculty members and research fellows

#### **Foreign Policy Studies Group holds seminars**

Foreign Policy Studies Group at IMESS conducts research on the aims and principles of Iranian foreign policy from a theoretical and conceptual framework.



Members of the Foreign Policy Studies Group holding a seminar.



Dr. Kayhan Barzegar drawing the road maps agenda of the study Group

#### English Workshop at Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies



Ana Yousefian, Visiting Research Fellow and member of the English workshop making a presentation on "How the West's Campaign against IS Lets the Region off the Hook", February 26, 2014

The main objective of this workshop is to provide the participants with the opportunity to prepare oneself for being an active listener at the lecture events held at the institute, one who can make comments on the talks while posing relevant and meaningful questions.



Arash Payami,Visiting Research Fellow and member of the English workshop making a presentation on "Contemporary Islamic Trend and Future of Islam", June 11, 2014



Monir Kholghi, Visiting Research Fellow and member of the English workshop making a presentation on "Right to Healthy Environment and Sustainable Development", March 12, 2014





From left: Dr. Ghadir Nasri, Dr. Mojtaba Ferdosipour, Hamidreza Akbari, Dr. Mahdi Farmanian and Ali Janbaz

# IMESS' Egypt and North Africa Studies-Intellectual Trends Studies Groups' Joint Seminar and Institute for Political and International Studies (IPSA) on "Process and Future Developments in Egypt"

On July 23 2013, a joint seminar was conducted by IMESS' Egypt, North Africa and Intellectual trends groups on" Process and Future Developments in Egypt". IMESS's resident and visiting research fellows, faculty members, as well as a number of Ph.D. and postgraduate students from different universities in Tehran attend-

ed this seminar. Mr. Mostafa Ferdousipour, the head of the Arab Middle East department of the of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mehdi Farmanian, a faculty member of Religious and Denominations University, Mr. Ali Janbaz, Iran's cultural attaché in Egypt and Mr. Hamidreza Akbari, a PhD candidate of International Relations, gave speeches.



Audience at the reception session





Group photo: participants in the seminar

#### IMESS' Study Groups' Members

Kayhan Barzegar Ph.D., Director of IMESS

Zahra Tavakoli

Assistant of the Group

Mohammad Farazmand

**oreign Policy Studies Group Members** 



Hamid Ahmadi Ph.D., Head of the Group

**Conflict and Cooperation in the Middle East Members** 



Maryam Motiee Assistant of the Group



Hossein Ajorlu



Mohammadhossein Khanlarkhani



Narjes Hashemi



Middle East and the Great Power Studies Members

Mohammadreza Shahbazbegian



Yasamin Hamidian



Hossein Ahmadi, Ph.D.



Arash Namazi





Mohammadreza Haghshenas

Omolbani Poulab, Ph.D.

Hossein Daheshyar Ph.D., Head of the Group

Zahra Mahmoud

Assistant of the Group

Saeid Shokouhi

Mohammadreza Kiani

Ehsan Razani





Payman Khajavi

Akhtar Ghasemi



Daryoush Piri



Noshin Mirzaei



Payman Khajavi



Aziz Abbasi



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Abbas Tajik





Behzad Daneshfar



Mohammadtagh Ebrahimikhoujin, Ph.D.



Amirmohammad Souri



Farzad Pitan, Ph.D.





Malek Hosseini







Sajad Abedi, Ph.D.

Fahimeh Ghorbani

Seyed Valiollah Mostafavi

Mohammad Saffar

Roozbeh Kardooni

Hamid Ramezanpour















Ghadir Nasri, Ph.D.,

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Tayebeh Domanlou. Assistant of the Group



Rojan Hesamghazi, Ph.D.



Arman Zarei



Salman Sadeghizadeh



Seyed Morteza Fattahi, Ph.D.



Mohammad Nejadiran



Maryam Esmaeilifard



Morteza Baghian





Mehdi Zolfaghari

Ali Valigholizadeh, Ph.D.

























Mahsa Mahpishanian



Hossein Ebrahimnia



Ashraf Ashrafpour, Ph.D.





Sakineh Babri



Siamak Bahrami, Ph.D.



Sheida Mahnam, Ph.D.



Hamidreza Azizi



Mahnaz Goodarzi



Shoaib Bahman

Hossein Vahid





Mahdi Farzai









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Hossein Mahdian

