

## Meeting with Embassy of Japan in Tunisia

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, delegates from the University of Tsukuba Tunisia Alumni Association (UTTAA) had a meeting with the staff of Embassy of Japan in Tunisia. The agenda of the meeting was to introduce UTTAA's objectives and fields of activities. Participants from the Embassy are Mr Daisuke SATO, Mrs Kinue HATANO and Mrs Hounaida KSOURI and from UTTAA are Dr. Mohamed KEFI, Dr. Fahmi BEN FREDJ, Dr. Fatma HACHANI and Dr. Rim OUERTANI. The discussion dealt with the presentation of the main objectives and the mission of UTTAA. The main activities mentioned were boosting scientific collaboration between University of Tsukuba and Tunisian institutions, coaching for the students interested in studying in Japan, implementation of think tank including students, researchers and industrials for valorization of scientific results in industrial sector, contributing to cultural exchange through cultural, gastronomy, touristic events.

A brief overview was presented about the activities realized in the first trimester 2016 and the upcoming ones. An emphasis on the necessity to improve and to strengthen the relationships between Tunisian institutes and the University of Tsukuba especially in academic and scientific research was given. Moreover, the possibility to establish a network which may encompass all Tunisian students graduated from Japan was discussed. The cooperation with Japanese companies working in Tunisia was also proposed. The meeting was fruitful. The embassy staff highly appreciated the missions of UTTAA. Collaboration with Embassy in some events related to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relationship was suggested. As follow up to this meeting, UTTAA is called to encourage Tunisian students to apply for MEXT scholarship. The association declared the commitment to assist them for their application.

