



The Chancellor of the University of Basrah visits MSC

The Chancellor of the University of Basrah, Prof. Dr. Thamir A. Hamdan, has visited MSC on Tuesday, Dec. 12th, 2015, meeting the MSC academic staff. Prof. Hamdan was accompanied by the managerial deputy of the chancellery, Prof. Dr. Sajid S. Al-Noor, the scientific deputy, Prof. Dr. Shakir Abd Al-Min'im, and a delegation from the Office of the Inspector General. Prof. Hamdan started the meeting with a speech praising the activities of MSC researchers and staff. Then he discussed projects at the MSC with the staff.



Salinity in Shatt Al-Arab River: the Ecological Change and Solution: a Seminar



As part of the MSC activities directed to the local directorates in Basrah, MSC started a group of informative and developing seminars to the members of several directorates interested in MSC research. The first seminar, entitled 'Salinity in Shatt Al-Arab: the Ecological Change and Solution', was presented by Assist. Prof. Sadiq S. Abdullah from the MSC Department of Marine Physics. The seminar tackled several points including the main source of water in Basrah, and the human, agricultural, and industrial use of water throughout the history of the region. Also, he explained the hydrological changes of the river which caused the severe decline in the discharge and quality of fresh water and the impact of the salt tide extending from the Arabian Gulf towards the north part of the river as well as the disappearance of the downstream area, which was located in the Gulf waters, south of the city of Faw.

Kuwait Consul in Basrah visits the MSC Shatt Al-Arab Marine Station

A delegation from the Kuwait Consulate in Basrah, headed by the consul Mr. Yusif A. Al-Sabbagh, first secretariat, Mr. Wa'il AR. Al-Bakr and Mr. Muhammed Al-Shatti, visited the MSC Shatt Al-Arab Marine Station on Friday, Dec 12th, 2015. The delegation was received by the Scientific Deputy of the Chancellery of the University of Basrah, Prof. Dr. Sajid S. Al-Noor and the MSC Director General, Prof. Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul, as well as the station crew. The visit included a tour inside the MSC Shatt Al-Arab Marine station and a presentation about the history of Naseem Al-Basrah research vessel.



National Geographic visits MSC

Mr. Andrew Lawler, a well-known writer from National Geographic, has visited MSC, interviewing the Director General Prof. Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul. During the interview Mr. Lawler presented many questions concerning the history of MSC, its establishments, the scientific departments, work of interest, and the academic members.



Different points were raised by Mr. Lawler dealing with the immediate issues faced by Iraq like; water crisis, dryness of marshes which caused immigration of locals, global warming and its impact of the Iraqi environment, and the Iraqi policies adopted in facing these issues.

Prof. Douabul shed light on the discovery of coral reefs in the Iraqi marine waters as a first record in the region, and the marine voyage conducted lately by MSC Basrah Breeze Research Vessel and the new species which were registered during the voyage.

At the end of the interview, Prof. Douabul focused on water crisis and the urgent need for special policies to face this serious problem which demands a regional collaboration as well as a water conservation in agricultural uses.

Listing the Iraqi Marshes within the World Heritage: A Workshop in Jordan

The Iraqi Ministry of Culture has nominated Prof. Dr. Hassan KH. Hassan, from the MSC Department of Marine Sedimentology, to take part in the workshop held in Amman, Jordan, about listing the Iraqi marshes within the Human Heritage List. The workshop occurred Dec. 19th- 24th, 2015 under direct supervision from UNESCO. The workshop included presentations dealing with the mechanism followed by UNESCO in listing Intangible Cultural Heritage. As an area of intangible heritage of Iraq, the Iraqi marshes, which extend in the region of three Iraqi cities- Basrah, Misa, Dhi-Qar- was introduced in the workshop.



MSC Researchers Participate in the Babylon Conference on Environment Sciences

A group of MSC researchers from the Department of Marine Invertebrates have participated in the Babylon Conference on Environment Sciences which was conducted by the Environment Research Centre in the University of Babylon. The conference was held between Dec. 15th- 16th, 2015 and tackled the most problematic issues faced by the Iraqi environment and the possible methods of treatment.

MSC researchers have focused on the problems facing the Shatt Al-Arab River, like the odd types of fish entering the river, and presented the river shad fisheries and the main problems encountered by the stock of this fish.

MSC Researchers who participated in the conference were:

1. Dr. Nouri AN. Nasir
2. Dr. Kadhim H. Yunis
3. Mr. Abbas J. Toman
4. Mr. Ahmed Ch. Jabbar
5. Mr. Ghassan A. Kamil



MSC Researchers Participate in the Second International Conference on Biology

Prof. Dr. Faris J. Al-Imarah, and Assist. Prof. Ali Mahdi, from the MSC Department of Marine Chemistry, have participated in the Second International Conference on Biology which was held by the College of Education for Girls in the University of Kufa between Dec. 16th- 17th, 2015. The conference was held in collaboration between the mentioned college and the Secretariat of the Grand Al-Kufa mosque. The two researchers were rewarded by Certificate of Gratitude for their presentations in the conference.



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----- Contributions -----

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Towards the Gulf is issued under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul, Director General of MSC