

*"There is no clothing more beautiful than good health".*

*Prophet Muhammed*

## Secretary General of the Council of Ministers visiting the University of Basrah

Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Prof. Hamid Al-Musawi, visited the University of Basrah and was received by the Chancellery Council of the University. Dr. Hamid Al-Musawi is one of the senior lecturers at the University of Basrah and is one of its prominent figures.



During the meeting, several discussions occurred concerning the reality of higher education in Iraqi universities in general and the University of Basrah in particular.



Due to the rationalization of expenditure policy which was adopted lately by the Iraqi government, Dr. Hamid Al-Musawi insisted on protecting the academic process and advised the identification of smart alternatives to face the present conditions. One of the main suggestions discussed was to establish private universities equivalent to the local ones under the supervision of the University of Basrah. Such a step will open the door for investing in the capabilities of retired professors and expand opportunities to students interested in continuing their academic education.

## Contract between the MSC's Marine Consulting Bureau and ENI Oil Company



MSC's Marine Consulting Bureau signed a contract with ENI Oil Company for studying samples of soil and water from the Zubair oilfield (South of Basrah) for a period of one year. The data are to be collected and analyzed by the MSC staff, in collaboration with the related colleges, on monthly basis.

## MSC Director General attending ROPME regular meeting

In their efforts to enhance the regional presence of Iraq in regional and local forums, MSC Director General, Prof. Ali AZ. Douabul, accompanied by a delegation from the Iraqi Ministry of Environment attended the regular meeting of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) in Kuwait. The meeting was attended by several high-level delegations from the Gulf member countries of the organization.



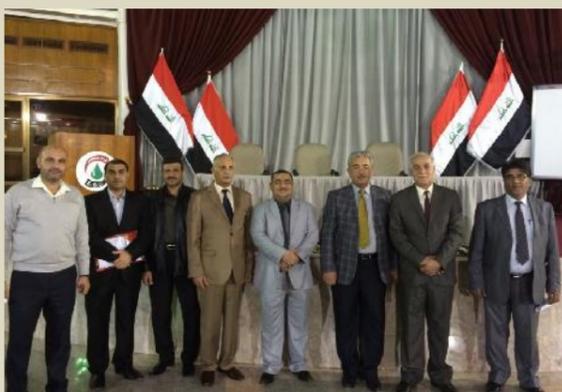
Future plans of ROPME were discussed during the meeting, highlighting the support required by Iraq to achieve the applicable research projects in the Arabian Gulf.

The recommendations of the meeting emphasized directing the organization's efforts to support Iraqi research projects, especially within the marine environment of Iraqi regional waters.



## MSC: Official Institute to Study Impact of Intrusive Species in Iraqi Regional Waters

Among the efforts of the Iraqi ministries to achieve biosecurity and limit environmental impacts, and as an impressive scientific step, Iraq will be the second country in the Gulf to monitor the environmental impact of intrusive species carried by large oil tankers in ballast water. This comes following a recommendation from the Iraqi Ministry of Transportation authorizing the MSC as an official research institute for monitoring and analyzing ballast water released by oil tankers in Iraqi ports. Ballast water released in thousands of tons cause the transfer of intrusive marine species, many of which are considered very dangerous to the marine environment. This is also applicable to fouling species attached to the structure of foreign tankers crossing different environments worldwide.



Previously, MSC presented in the first workshop on "Procedures for Treating Dangerous Zooplankton Carried to the Iraqi Regional Waters through Ballast Waters of Ships and Methods of Disposal" which was held in late October 2014. MSC researchers presented a registry of toxic substances carried by ballast water which are known to cause the death of marine species. At least 10% of pollution occurs due to tankers waste, a problem which calls for serious mitigation.

MSC researchers recommended that tankers entering Iraq be put under observation and undergo ballast water analyses prior to entry to avoid the release of dangerous species and toxic substances, in order to protect the Iraqi regional waters.

The Ministry of Transportation welcomed these initiatives and recommended the establishment of an advanced scientific biosecurity division at the MSC laboratory, headed by a representative from the ministry itself. The laboratory will be a National resource for the study of ballast waters including impacts and mitigation.

## Scientific diving team from MSC and Freiberg University surveying the Iraqi waters

The MSC scientific diving team, led by Assistant Prof. Shakir Gh. Ajeel, accompanied by the scientific team from Freiberg University (Prof. Thomas Phol and four MSc candidates), conducted a survey on Iraqi waters. The first part of the survey was done on Sawa Lake in central Iraq.



The four day survey included assessment and analyses on surface water, collected data from the lake's environment sensors, and collected sediment and fish samples, namely 'Goby'.

The second part of the survey was conducted in Iraqi regional waters in the North- West of the Arabian Gulf. This six day survey focused on marine deep waters which had previously been unstudied in detail.

## MSC delegation in a conference on promoting the common approach to protect the environment

A delegation from MSC represented by Assistant Prof. Nadia Al-Mudhafar and Assistant Prof. Ali A. Ghani participated in a conference on promoting a common approach for protecting the environment. The conference was held in Baghdad in collaboration with the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) on 14 January 2015.

The MSC delegation invited the UNDP representative in Iraq to visit the MSC and suggested a conference on the environmental condition of the Shatt Al-Arab estuary and the Iraqi marine waters, to be held in Basrah.



## Iranian Sanam Company visiting MSC

MSC Director General, Prof. Ali AZ. Douabul, has led the second meeting with the Iranian Sanam company's delegation. Sanam Co is a large company involved in giant projects such as oil manufacturing, communications, and construction of roads and bridges.



The two parties discussed collaboration between MSC and Sanam Co and signed an agreement to facilitate future scientific work. The agreement included future maintenance and rehabilitation of the MSC Basrah Breeze scientific vessel and suggesting large projects for developing marine transport between Iraq, Iran and other Gulf countries.



## MOU between MSC and the College of Agriculture

Among his efforts to achieve scientific twinning between MSC and similar Iraqi colleges and centres, MSC Director General, Prof. AZ. Douabul, accompanied by a group of MSC researchers, visited the College of Agriculture (University of Basrah), meeting its dean and the heads of scientific departments.



During the meeting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by the two parties. The MOU is based upon the application of a twinning program including exchange of expertise, conducting continuous academic meetings, investment in available capabilities in the fields of scientific research and supervision, and collaborating in conducting contractual projects. The Dean of the College of Agriculture, Prof. Nawfal Abd Al-Ameer, welcomed the MSC's delegation and promised to provide support in any scientific and/or managerial collaboration.



## MSC Research visits the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography

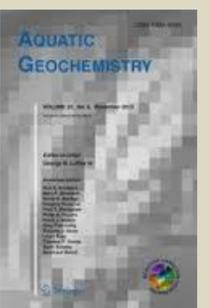
As a part of the scientific and regional activities of MSC, Dr. Samir A. Rahma, Head of the MSC Department of Marine Physics, visited the Khorramshahr Marine Science and Technology University and the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography in Iran between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> of January 2015. The visit aimed at activating a scientific agreement between MSC and the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography. The agreement includes exchanging expertise in the field of marine studies, particularly mathematical modeling for simulating the physical phenomena of the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. A joint workshop has been planned.



## MSC researcher publishes in American Journal

Co-authored with two researchers from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science in Miami, USA, PhD student, Mr. Muaiyed Al-Bahadli, has published a research paper in the Aquatic Geochemistry Journal.

Aquatic Geochemistry Journal is one of the prominent journals in the field of marine science with a 1.809 Impact factor. Furthermore, this comes as a first step collaboration between MSC and the University of Miami.



## MSC Consultant in the Ministry of Water Resources

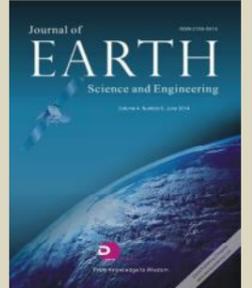
As a part of the collaboration strategy between Iraqi universities and governmental institutes, Dr. Abd Al-Jabbar Ch. Hasan, from the MSC Department of Sedimentology, has been authorized to be a scientific consultant representing the University of Basrah in the Ministry of Water Resources. The consultation will focus on technical review of reports and studies on the Shatt Al-Arab River.



Prior to this, Dr. Abd Al-Jabbar provided technical review for the studies submitted by an Italian consulting group which studied the soils between Al-Qurna, Al-Midaina and Al-Faw in Basrah governorate.

## MSC has a Reviewer in an American Scientific Journal

Researcher Ali Basil Mahmood, from the MSC Department of Marine Physics has been authorized to be a peer reviewer in the Journal of Earth Science and Engineering. The journal publishes papers on earth sciences including marine sciences. It is also registered in several global databases such as Google Scholar, Universe Digital Library S/B, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, and S. Journal Index.



Mr. Ali is a PhD candidate from MSC studying at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, University of Chichen, Poland.

## PhD Dissertation on Shatt al-Arab Invertebrates



A PhD debate was conducted in the Department of Fisheries in the College of Agriculture examining the dissertation of the PhD candidate Khalid Khassaf Salih, from the MSC Department of Marine Biology. The dissertation entitled "Functional Analysis of the composition of large invertebrate community in the Shatt al-Arab river".

The study focused on using functional analysis of the large invertebrate community (including nutrition, living style, and life cycle) as alternative to the characteristics of the environment system to assess the environmental conditions at four stations in Basrah, namely; Al-Dair, Al-Sindibad, Al-Salihya, and Abu Al-Khaseeb. The study investigated 40 large invertebrates representing 30 families.

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## ----- Contributions -----

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