

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Under the auspices of his Excellency, the Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Marine Science Centre/ University of Basrah announces [BASRAH MARINE SCIENCE CONFERENCE](#) To be held on April 6th -7th, 2015.

**Conference Themes:** (1) International Collaboration, (2) Capacity Building, (3) Strategic Planning, and (4) Marine Resources

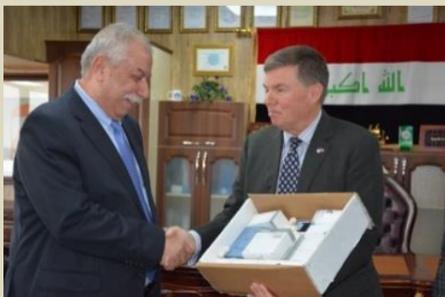
*"Everything has its own path, and the path of paradise is (acquiring) knowledge."*

*Prophet Muhammed*

### MSC hosts USA Basrah Consul General



On Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, USA Basrah consul general, Mr. Matthias Mitman, visited MSC and met with MSC Director General, Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul, and a group of researchers. A collaboration between MSC and American universities, including scholarships and research requirements was discussed. The MSC is grateful for scientific equipment Mr Mitman presented, which was gifted from North Eastern University.



### MSC participates in First World Conference for Afro-Asian Gathering



Prof. Dr. Asaad and Mr. Al-Ta'ee, from the Department of Biological Evolution of Shatt Al-Arab and North-West Arabian Gulf, has represented MSC in the First World Conference for Afro-Asian Gathering which was held in the Islamic Republic of Iran between March 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### MSC Records New Biological Results

A field trip was conducted by a team consisting of members of two departments from MSC, (Department of Marine Biology and Department of Biological Evolution of Shatt Al-Arab and North-West of the Arabian Gulf), to Mhejran and Salhyia areas in Basrah. The team conducted a survey of the benthic environment of the Shatt Al-Arab river in relation to two shrimps projects: the Environmental Atlas of Marine Life project and a *Metapenaeus affinis* shrimp migration between sea and marshes project are currently in progress.



The team collected samples of benthos from the mentioned areas and recorded the following significant observations:

1. A variety of benthos was recorded (snails and downstream shellfish), some of which have not been observed during the previous year survey.
2. The presence of substantial quantities of plastic waste in littoral areas is of concern and requires attention.



### Chancellor of the University of Basrah visiting MSC Hareer Station for Research

The Chancellor of the University of Basrah, Prof. Dr. Thamir A. Hamdan, has visited the MSC Hareer Station for Research (HSR) which is located in the North- Western part of Basrah marshes (namely, Al-Sallal Marsh). The Chancellor was accompanied by Prof. Roliff Purrington from the American University of Technology, Houston. The visitors had a tour exploring HSR and the scientific equipment available.



Originally, HSR was designed for scientific purposes by the Iraqi authorities with direct supervision from the Iraqi Marsh Reviving Centre. Later, it became part of the MSC's jurisdiction.

HSR is the only scientific station located within the Basrah marshes and covers the eastern part of the Hammar Marsh (MasHab and Sallal marshes). The future of HSR provides great capabilities for field research and marsh environment monitoring research.



### South Korean delegation visiting MSC Shatt Al-Arab Marine Station Iranian National Institute for Oceanography

The Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea in Iraq, Mr Jung-won Cho, First Secretariat, Mr Chung Chi Won and a delegation from the South Korean embassy, visited the MSC Shatt Al-Arab Marine Station. During the visit, the delegation had a tour aboard Naseem Al-Basrah Vessel (Basrah Breeze) and they expressed great interest in this unique scientific facility.

Different topics of collaboration were discussed during the meeting with MSC Director General, Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul, and researchers from MSC.



At the end of the meeting the South Korean delegation was invited to attend the annual ceremony held by the University of Basrah on its 51<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Basrah Marine Conference held by MSC on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.



### New Support to MSC Shatt Al-Arab Marine Station

The MSC has added the Shatt Al-Arab Marine Station to its fleet of marine vessels. Originally part of the research vessel Naseem Al-Basrah "Basrah Breeze", it is 6 m long and 2 m wide. The marine station is equipped with one bedroom for two persons and a command room accommodating six people. The boat is equipped with all necessary equipment and is ready for field work.



## MSC Celebrating International Women Day with UNHCR



The MSC Committee of Culture and Society participated in the International Women's Day ceremony hosted by the Basrah and Gulf Studies Centre in collaboration with the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Iraqi Humanitarian Relief Organization. The ceremony took place in Marla Hall in the University of Basrah Bab Al-Zubair campus.



Assist. Lecturer Zahraa Abd Al-Hadi (MSC) gave a speech paying tribute to Iraqi women and their magnificent role in supporting the country. She highlighted the sacrifice Iraqi women have made by encouraging husbands and sons to volunteer in the Iraqi army to defend the country against ISIS terrorist attacks.

## MSC Sharks conquer Shatt Al-Arab!

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, MSC Sharks football team defeated the College of Shatt Al-Arab after a penalty shootout.



In the first half of the match, MSC scored one goal in the Shatt Al-Arab net, while the equalizer goal was scored in the second half. The game ended drawn at 1-1. In a penalty shootout, MSC recorded a victory over the Shatt Al-Arab College Football Team.

**HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS  
FROM MSC FAMILY!**

## Naseem Al-Basra Trial Navigation



MSC Marine and Technical division led by Captain Hussain Gh. Khaleefa conducted a trial navigation aboard Naseem Al-Basrah Vessel (Basrah Breeze) on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This comes as a first step in MSC's preparation for tackling research cruises in the deep marine waters of the Arabian Gulf in the near future.

## Phytoplankton Fish in Northern Arabian Gulf and the Shatt al-Arab River: A Seminar

Dr. Muna Taha Khudhair, from the Department of Vertebrates, has given a seminar about fish larvae community in the Northern Arabian Gulf and the Shatt al-Arab River. Studying the subject, Dr. Muna conducted a comparison between the phytoplankton within the two areas by qualitatively and quantitatively identifying the structure of larvae populations (abundance, diversity, equality, and richness).

Results of her study revealed the distribution of larvae in the Northern part of the Shatt Al-Arab River (close to the conflux of Qarmat Ali and the Shatt Al-Arab River and Al-Sindibad Island) compared to the distribution of marine fish larvae within the southern part of the Shatt Al-Arab river (close to Fao area) which is characterized as a marine environment.



## Cleaning operation in the MSC Marine Station

MSC Marine and Technical Division supervised a cleaning operation in the MSC Marine Station conducted by the Marine Rescue Unit from the Iraqi General Port Company. Since the 1990s, sunken debris including ships and vessels, has hindered the mooring of boats.



This operation comes as part of the Basrah governorate's plan to remove these sunken ships and vessels from the Shatt Al-Arab River and the navigation channel.

## Fake Journals and Academic Publishing: A seminar

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, Prof. Adil H. Al-Handhal, from the MSC Department of Marine Biology, gave a seminar at the University of Basrah College of Science entitled "Fake Journals and Academic Publishing". The seminar took place in the conference room of the Department of Environment.

The goal behind the seminar, as Dr. Al-Handhal pointed out, is to introduce the main fake journals spread worldwide and to explain their dangers and how to avoid them. Authentic publishing was discussed in detail with regard to recent developments occurring in this field.



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

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