

"Your dignity is as preserved as frozen water and only melts by the heat of need. So carefully choose where to drop your water."

Imam Ali bin abi Talib

### Condolence Letter

"Every soul will taste death. Then to Us will you be returned." {Holy Quran: 29:57}



On behalf of MSC members, I would like to extend my deepest condolences on the death of our dear senior colleague, Late Prof. Dr. Hasan Mohammed Bidair, who has passed away on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Prof. Bidair was a wonderful person and was very devoted towards his work.

May Allah grant him mercy and prosperity in heaven.

Prof. Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul  
Director General of MSC

### Foreign Participants in the Basrah Marine Conference give lectures at the College of Agriculture



After participating in the Basrah Marine Conference which was held by the MSC on April 6-7 2015, Prof. Mohammed Sharif Mohammed Din, from the University of Putra Malaysia, and Prof. Sher Khan Panhwar, from the University of Karachi, have been hosted by the college of Agriculture at the University of Basrah. The two scientists have presented seminars to the students of the Department of Fisheries.

### HE Minister Celebrates the 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University of Basrah

Along with the celebrations of the University of Basrah in its 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary, his excellency Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Hussain Al-Shahristani, visited the University of Basrah and the MSC Shatt Al-Arab Marine Station on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. During his visit, Dr. Al-Shahristani had a tour around the MSC Basrah Breeze Vessel in which MSC had set an exhibition for scientific products and publications.



In the morning Dr. Al-Shahristani had headed the monthly Opinion Commission meeting which involve all Iraqi university chancellors as members along with a high- ranked delegation from the ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

### Science and Technology Minister in MSC Basrah Breeze



On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minister of Science and Technology, his excellency Engineer Faris Yusif, accompanied by a high ranked delegation has visited the MSC Basrah Breeze Research Vessel. Mr. Yusif held a meeting with the deputy of the University of Basrah for managerial affairs, Dr. Sajid Al-Noor, Director General of MSC, Prof. Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul, and deans of the University of Basrah Colleges. The meeting included extended discussions regarding the capabilities of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the related institutes, enforcing the collaboration between the ministry and MSC for the sake of treating some problems concerning resources investment and human abilities to promote the environmental and technical reality in Basrah.

Among the most important projects presented in the meeting were:

- Waste treatment
- Space and Communications Research
- Renewable clean energy research (solar energy, wind energy)
- Atmosphere monitoring techniques by remote sensing
- Soil and groundwater research
- Development of agricultural and fish production and processing of agricultural pests Research
- Modern technology of rated irrigation, saline cultivation as well as farmers training.

At the end of the meeting, MSC has signed with the Ministry of Science and Technology a contract to establish forecasters' air tower for monitoring meteorological issues in MSC Hareer Station for Marsh Research.

### Deputy Chancellor of the University of Basrah visits MSC

Deputy Chancellor for scientific affairs, Prof Dr. Shakir Salim Ni'ma, has visited MSC to meet with Director General, Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul, and his deputy, Dr. Kareem T. Yesser. The meeting focused on discussing the new trend of MSC to be converted into a national institute. Earlier, Council of the University of Basrah has given formal approval for the MSC proposal to be converted into an institute under the title "Iraqi National Institute of Marine Science".

It is worth mentioning that this proposal was presented to the Opinion Commission of the ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in its last meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> which has taken place on MSC's 'Naseem Al-Basrah' vessel.

Meanwhile, MSC is looking forward to have the formal document from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to put the proposal into action. A step that will open new scope for MSC researchers and graduate students interested in marine science to continue their higher studies in this unique field of research in Iraq.



### Basrah Marine Conference

Under the auspices of his Excellency, the Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Marine Science Centre/ University of Basrah held Basrah Marine Science Conference on April 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The conference took place on the MSC Naseem Al-Basrah research vessel which is anchored on MSC Shatt Al-Arab marine station.

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

Proceedings of Basrah Marine Conference 2015 will be issued in a separate Appendix

### MSC: Iraq representative in the IODE

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 MSC has been approved to be an IODE Associate Data Unit. The IODE (International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange) is a unit belonging to the UNESCO. By joining IODE, MSC may:

- Receive information on, and contribute to, IODE standards and best practices related to ocean data management,
- Be welcomed to participate in ocean data and information management training, organized within the framework of the IODE OceanTeacher programme
- Receive assistance, upon request, from IODE, on matters related to ocean data management,
- Be invited, as observers, to participate in Sessions of the IODE Committee,
- Participate in IODE workshops and projects,
- Share expertise with other ADUs and NODCs

MSC has been included within the IODE family under the web addresses:

[http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com\\_oe&task=viewGroupRecord&groupID=297](http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewGroupRecord&groupID=297)  
[http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=373&Itemid=100089](http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=373&Itemid=100089)  
[http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=100057](http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=100057)



## Training Course in Malaysia: A step forward towards Scientific Collaboration with MSC



MSC has received an invitation letter from the Malaysian Academy of Science for hosting researchers from MSC in a training course organized by the Science and Technology Organization which is part of the INOC. The training course comes within the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) and will be held during October 4th- 13th, 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.

## GIS in Research: A Training Course



A training course on using GIS technique in scientific research was organized by MSC during April 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The course was conducted in collaboration with Nashwa Agriculture Directorate and was presented by GIS experts; Mr. Adnan Abd Al-Hussain and Mr. Kareem Sabeeh.

The training course included lectures introducing GIS, building a database, drawing maps and presenting final research data on them. Participants in the course were from Basrah Agriculture Directorate, College of Arts, and MSC.

## Regional Centre for Combating Oil Spills in Basrah



Basrah South Oil Company has founded the Regional Centre for Combating Oil Spills in Basrah. This comes as an environmental effort in managing the oil spills as Basrah is the major place in exporting raw oil though the Arabian Gulf. Such exhaustive and fast work needs urgent plans for avoiding any accidents, a reason for establishing such center.

MSC has played a leading role in putting urgent and long- term treatment strategies for such accidents that may mitigate the coastal and marine environment.

## Asian African Society of Mycobacteriology: Participation

Researchers from the University of Basrah have participated in the Asian African Society of Mycobacteriology (AASM) which was conducted in Iran on March 7<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The conference was organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), and Elsevier Publisher. Many researchers from countries worldwide have attended the conference such as USA, Italy, Britain, Spain, Japan, China, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, India, Pakistan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iran, Ireland, Syria, Iraq and others. MSC was represented by Prof. Dr. Asaad Al-Tae, from the Department of Marine Chemistry, who presented a joint research paper entitled " Phenotyping and Genotyping Identification of Non-Tuberculosis Mycobacterium Isolated from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Suspected Patients in Basra Governorate". Coauthors of this research are Assist. Lecturer Zainab Alak, from the College of Nursing" and Prof. Dr. Ameen Abd Al-Jabbar, from the College of Education for Pure Sciences.



## Organizing Committee of the Oil Pollution Conference holds its first meeting

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Organizing Committee of the Oil Pollution Conference which will be held in Basrah had held their first meeting in MSC. The meeting was headed by Prof. Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul, head of the scientific committee, with attendance of all members, with representatives of Iraqi Ministry of Oil, Iraqi Ministry of Environment, Basrah Environment Directorate, as well as members from MSC.

The meeting was attended by Director General of the South Environment Directorate, Mr. Taha Yassin Muhammed, as a member in the organization committee. After starting the meeting with a welcome by Dr. Douabul, Mr. Taha gave a brief introduction about the significance of the conference and main reasons behind conducting it.

Several issues were discussed during the meeting, most important of which is the necessity of involving all foreign oil companies working in Basrah in this conference.

Themes of the conference were laid as the following:

1. Problems of oil pollution.
2. Treatments and procedures followed.
3. Obstacles
4. Suggestions

The Conference of Oil Pollution in Basrah will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.



## MSC researchers visit Siba I vessel for Combating Oil Spills

On April, 23<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Dr. Ali A. Ghani and Captain Hussain Ghazi, have visited Siba I vessel for combating and treating oil spills. Siba I is one of the vessels belonging to the General Company of Iraqi Ports and it is anchored in Abu Floos port.

The visit aimed at assessing the capabilities of Siba I in conducting scientific projects in the field of oil pollution and oil spill treatment. This comes as part of MSC efforts in organizing the first voyage of Naseem Al-Basrah in the Iraqi regional water to have Siba I in its company. The voyage will take place in mid of May 2015.



## Water Conference in the Holy Shrine of Abbas bin Ali

Three researchers from the MSC Department of Marine Sedimentology have participated in the Second Conference of Water Resources in Iraq and Sustainable Development. The conference was organized by the Department of Geography (Ibn Rushd College of Education, University of Baghdad) in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Holy Shrine of Abbas bin Ali in the holy city of Karbala, April 22<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The slogan of the conference was "Sustainability of Water in Iraq is the Sustainability of Life".

The MSC delegation represented by Dr. Hasan K. Hasan, Dr. Fayiq Yunis, and Assist. Lecturer Zahra Abd Al-Hadi presented three prominent papers highlighting the problems of water locally and the problems of Basrah and its marine coasts. They also took part in formulating the recommendations of the conference.



## A statistical study on freshwater and marine fish caught in Basrah

MSC research team from the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries (headed by Assistant Professor Dr. Nasser Nuri al-Nabi) has conducted a statistical study for evaluating the amount of marine and freshwater fishes caught in Basrah. The study was accomplished by the end of 2014 and has a great significance for fisheries. It aimed at studying fisheries and its resources in Basrah in the period between 1990- 2011. The study depended on the announced amount of caught fishes by fish sellers as well as the data gained from the general Agriculture Directorate in Basrah.

Based on the data gained the highest amount was marked by the commercial fishing in 2000 reaching 4,390.775 and 152.445 tons of marine and freshwater fish respectively. The data was studies qualitatively reporting 30 species of marine fishes and eleven species of freshwater fishes. *Tenuulosa ilisha* formed 45% of the total catch of the marine fishes. *Silurus triostegus* constituted 32% of the freshwater fishes.



## MSC Researcher participating in a Global Conference

Lecturer Ali Basel, from the MSC Department of Marine Physics, has participated in the General Assembly EGU 2015 which was opened on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and lasted for five days in Austria. More than 14700 researchers from other countries will take part in this event.

Lecturer Ali Basil has participated in the conference according to the invitation he received from a German organization related to German Hoalmholtz Institute for marine and coastal research. It is worth mentioning that all articles presented will be published in Geophysical Research Abstract (GRA) a well-known journal with high impact factor.



## Subscription

To join our mailing list, please provide your (Title, Name, Occupation, & Work place) at: [towardsthegulf@mscbasra.org](mailto:towardsthegulf@mscbasra.org)

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

For contributions, please contact Towards the Gulf's translator and editor: Assist. Lecturer Zainab Jaafar. Email: [zainab.jaafar@mscbasra.org](mailto:zainab.jaafar@mscbasra.org)

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