

Ramadhan Mubarak

'God imposed fasting on people, so that the rich may feel hunger and be kind to the weak.'

Imam Muhammed Al-Baqir

A Workshop for laboratory supervisors in Turkey



Dr. Ali Hussein Amteghi, from the MSC's Department of Environmental Chemistry, has participated in a workshop conducted in Turkey for laboratory supervisors. The workshop were held between May 25th and 27th, 2015, and included an introduction to chemical security, dual-use information, information security, scientific ethics, safe lab practices and fighting chemical terrorism with an introduction to training of trainers.

Physical and Chemical Aspects in the Arabian Gulf: A Ph.D Dissertation



On June 15th, 2015, Mr. Muaiyed Muhammed Al-Bahadli, of the Dept of Environmental Chemistry, has defended his dissertation entitled 'Physical and Chemical Aspects of the Arabian Gulf'.

The dissertation was supervised by Prof. Dr. Ali AZ. Douabul, General Director of the MSC and the defence has taken place in the College of Education, University of Basrah.

The researcher has studied the distribution of nutrients and some other chemical and physical factors prevailing in the Arabian Gulf and the Oman Sea at various depths during summer 2001 and winter 2006. Salinity, dissolved oxygen, electric conductivity, temperature and water density have been investigated. Flora and fauna have also been studied such as phytoplankton, zooplankton and chlorophyll which are effected by variations in nutrient distribution and other environmental parameters.



MSC registers the presence of sea devil fish (Manta Ray) in the Iraqi coastal water

In their first research cruise (Towards the Gulf 1st) onboard Naseem Al-Basrah Vessel which extended from May 30th to June 7th, 2015, MSC researches, together with the German diving team from Freiberg University, have observed the presence of the sea devil fish (Manta Ray) in the Iraqi coastal water.

This is a spectacular finding since this fish has not been previously encountered in the region. This species might be 'Manta alfredi' which differs from the giant ocean devil fish 'Manta birostris'. However, these two species are the largest of the ray family named *Mobulidae* and the largest ray fish in the world.



MSC researcher attends ROPME regular meeting

Prof. Dr. Aadil Al-Handhal, from the Department of Marine Biology, has attended the regular meeting of the Regional Organization for Protecting the Marine Environment (ROPME). The meeting was organized in Kuwait under the title 'Experts meet on Land Based Activities'.

The main objectives of the Meeting were to prepare a Workplan with timetable to carry out the "Survey of Municipal Wastewater in the Region" as well as to recommend priority programme activities for LBA at the National and Regional levels which are to be in line with the core Partnership areas of Wastewater and Nutrients Management of UNEP-GPA and the Global Wastewater Initiative.

The Meeting was attended by Experts from the ROPME Member States, UNEP, ROPME Consultant and the Professional Staff of ROPME. Prof. Al-Handal presented the Iraqi work plan on land-based activities particularly in the region from Baghdad to the Iraqi coasts. He has highlighted the local efforts in treating municipal water and the efficiency of wastewater treatment plants as well as presenting Iraqi environmental legislations for protecting the local environment such as law No. 27, 2009. At the end of the meeting, different recommendations and suggestion concerning enhancing the protection of coastal environment were concluded.



MSC team visiting the Large Faw Port Wave Breaker

Along with the MSC efforts in building collaboration with local institutes and contributing to their various projects within the marine filed, a scientific team has visited the site of the Iraqi General Port Company and met chief engineer Asaad A. Rashid, director of the Large Faw Port Project. The team included:

- Prof. Dr. Abd Al-Karim Hamzah Gillan
- Dr. Ali Ahmed Ghani
- Assist. Prof. Hazim Abdel Hafez Sayyab

Several meetings were held with the chief engineer where MSC team offered providing scientific support for companies operating in this giant project. MSC team has also discussed several issues with the representative of the Italian company who designed the project. It was agreed that:

1. Companies operating in the Large Faw Port project have to provide clear signs around the recently discovered coral reefs in the Iraqi coastal water. This is for the purpose of ensuring the required protection against external influences including accumulation of silt deposition in the work zone.
2. Collaborating with MSC to study the proposal of establishing an island in the east side of the eastern wave breaker.
3. Collaborating with MSC in studying the basic design of the port new city.
4. Maintaining these field visits to benefit the progress of work and to have exchange of experiences.



Adsorption and Extract of Ethanol from Aqueous Medium: A Seminar

On Monday, May 15th, 2015, Assistant Lecturer Mazin Abd Al-Hussein, of the Department of Environmental Chemistry, has given a seminar entitled 'Adsorption and Extract of Ethanol from aqueous medium using commercial adsorbent'. Mr. Mazin tackled the global warming issue which has increased lately and exhibited the alternative fuel as a solution for minimizing this phenomenon. Works on fuel production from plants have increased in the last few decades to be an alternative or a reducer to the use of fossil fuels. Ethanol produced from plants by fermentation constitute only 10% of the total outcome and the processes of purifying it from water is rather costly.

During his lecture, the researcher pointed out the effectiveness of his study, which focused on the process of adsorption to separate ethanol and assessing its effectiveness and economic outcome. As a result, he found it an efficient process whereas the concentration of ethanol increased from 0% to 50% within low cost and under identified conditions.



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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