

Mahdi Ahmad

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Nationality-Iraqi

Managing Director of Iraq's Thirst Project

Accomplished analyst, researcher, and lecturer with a strong focus on government / political affairs and global developments. Offers a strong academic background in Management and Middle Eastern Studies. Proficient and skilful across all areas of external relations, internal communications, PR, alumni relations, student recruitment, widening participation, marketing, partnership development, public involvement, and international engagement. Conducting partnerships cross-functional teams across think tanks, universities, media, and government platforms to provide comprehensive reports based on information from quality sources. Skilfully supports allocation of financial and operational resources as well as decision-making and planning functions. Advanced communicator in Arabic and Farsi.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Strategy / Decision-Making | Geopolitics | Energy Policies | Dialogue
Politics | Management | Report Generation | Documentation

Languages: Proficiency in Arabic with Full Working Proficiency in English and Persian / Farsi

SELECT HIGHLIGHTS

Iraq's Thirst, Managing Director

2022-Present

Bahr Alolom Foundation, Baghdad, Iraq

- Developing the Road map for session 5 of the Bahr Alolom *Foundation* Iraq's Thirst-focus on the water and climate change challenges in Iraq under the theme (Iraq's Thirst).
- Co-ordinating with Government of Iraq, Council of Representatives, NGO's and the International community (UN Agencies, UNAMI, Embassies) on workshops, recommendations and actions on Climate Change, Water Scarcity, Irrigation and Renewable Energy.
- The Season was inaugurated by H.E President of Iraq Dr Abdul Latif Rashid.
- Member of Environment & Climate Change Policy Advisory Group and UN Water Taskforce.
- leading regional meetings with Turkey, Iran and Syria regarding marshland in Iraq especially Hawizeh Marsh through Track 1.5 diplomacy.
- Participating in designing training programs for Iraqi negotiators regarding water and climate change.

Member of the Board of Directors of Bahr Alolom Fourm

2017-Present

Bahr Alolom Foundation, Baghdad, Iraq

- Develop the forums external relations, marketing and communications strategies and associated implementation plans.
- Lead the development of close and effective relationships with the relevant central support functions wherever possible seeking to align the School's activities with those of national and international universities, national and international seminars (Najaf, Karbala, Qom, Lebanon), governmental organisations (ministries and presidential office), the diplomatic sector (embassies), and international organisations (UNAMI, UNDP, UNESCO, GIZ).
- Develop the identity and brand of the forum and establish its positioning with multiple strategic partners and stakeholders.
- Identify new opportunities for external engagement, partnership working and collaboration
- Promote integrated and co-ordinated external relations activities responsive to changing internal and external drivers.
- Co-Ordinator of the Economic Committee for Iraq's Sovereignty Crisis Initiative. Economical reform recommendations presented to Minister of Economy Dr Ali Allawi following +12 sessions with key stakeholders.
- Supporting The Souq al Shoyukh Community Hub (SSCH) in Dhi Qar Province in the South of Iraq to spread awareness of water scarcity and climate change. The Initiative is a partnership between BAF-UNDP- Ministry of Youth and sports In Iraq.

Head of Research Department

2018-Present

Al alamain Institute of Higher Education, Najaf, Iraq

- The first and only private higher educational institute in Iraq specialising in Political science and Law
- Higher diploma in Good Governance and Election
- +1,000 graduates to date
- Largest library in mid-south Iraq in Political science and Law

Public Relations Manager

Iraq Energy Academy, Baghdad

2015-2019

Monitoring the production and distribution of products to local and regional markets and

- Supporting the Academy's external relations
- Research and development that contributed to the legislation for the Iraqi National Oil Company law
- Use of analytical management and marketing methods to ensure quality and distribution of information to stakeholder.
- Work closely with internal / external International Oil Companies management teams.
- Workshops and discussion forum with Iraq Energy Academy with respect to the energy policy in Iraq and the impact of the distribution of natural resources– including oil – on social stability and state reinforcement.
- Liaise with authorities in the Middle East to collect research, disseminating findings through conferences and seminars.

PUBLICATIONS

- The correction of the political party pattern.. The first step toward the real reform, *Almowaten*, 29(3), p. 3.
- The actors In the Iraqi political scene: Towards the end or the beginning of a new stage?, *Almowaten*, 24(3), p. 2.
- Natural radioactivity in soil at regions around the uranium mine in Abu-Skhair Najaf Province, Iraq, *Advances in Applied Science Research*, 2014, 5(1):13-17
- The Impasse of Democratic Transition in Iraq - A Study in the Consociational Design of Iraq Post 2003- University of Manchester, 2017.
- Iraq's Public Energy Policy between Performance Indicators and Assessment Process Post-2003, *Al-Alamain Institute for Higher Educations*, 2018.

EDUCATION

Public Policy Analysis

2022

London School of Economics

PhD in Political Science

2019-present

Al alamain Institute of Higher Education, Najaf, Iraq

MA in Peace and Conflict Studies

2016-2017

Manchester University, UK

MsC in Political Science

2011-2013

Al alamain Institute of Higher Education, Najaf, Iraq

MsC in Physics

2011-2014

Kufa University, Najaf, Iraq

BA in Physics

2006-2010

Baghdad University, Baghdad, Iraq

CONFERENCES

- Roundtables, National Settlement in Iraq, 2017, Baghdad, Iraq.
- Conference, Iraq Sovereignty Crises, 2019, Baghdad, Iraq.
- Roundtables, Economic Reform in Iraq, 2021- 2022, Baghdad, Iraq.
- Conference on Constitutional Reforms in Iraq, 2020, Holy City of Najaf, Iraq.
- Workshop on Iraq's Internal Resource Management, 4th-5th November 2022, Babylon Hotel, Baghdad, Iraq.
- Workshop on Prospects for Cooperation in Regional Water Resource Management - Iran and Iraq as a Model, 4th March 2023, Holy City of Najaf, Iraq.
- Roundtable on Prospects for Cooperation Between Federal Ministry Of Water Resources And The Ministry Of Water Resources And Agriculture In The Kurdistan Region, Holy City of Najaf, Iraq.
- Iraq Climate Conference, 12th-13th March 2023, Basra, Iraq.
- Side Event co-organized by ESCWA and the United Nations Regional Commissions entitled "Regional Dialogue on Accelerating Implementation of the Water Action Agenda," at the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, 22nd-24th March 2023, New York City, USA.
- Roundtable, Water: The Main Resource of the Future at the 10th Nevsky International Ecological Congress, 25th-26th May 2023, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- The Opportunities and Challenges in Climate Action, 20th June 2023, Baghdad, Iraq.
- Training Course on Strengthening Journalism in Water Scarcity and Climate Change, July – August 2023, Baghdad, Iraq.
- The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security, 12th September 2023, The Hague, Netherlands.
- Roundtable discussion on Joint Cooperation on Water Scarcity and Climate Change between Iran and Iraq, 15th-16th October 2023, Tehran, Iran.
- The Role of the Educational System in Addressing Climate Change & Water Scarcity, 2nd November 2023, Baghdad University, Baghdad, Iraq.
- Workshop on Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection, 4th November 2023, Erbil, Iraq.
- COP 28 Side Event, Harmonizing Waters: Collaborative Solutions for Climate-Resilient Regional Resource Management, 6th December 2023, Dubai, UAE.
- Prospects for Regional Cooperation to Address Water Scarcity and Climate Change - Iraq and Syria as a Model, 24th April 2024, Holy City of Najaf, Iraq.
- 4th Baghdad International Water Conference Side Event, The Role of Non-State Actors in Transboundary Water Resource Management in the Tigris and Euphrates Basin, 28th April 2024, Baghdad, Iraq.
- Focusing Group, Discussing the Water Scarcity and Climate Change Challenges between Turkey and Iraq, 29th April 2024.
- International Symposium: Drought, and the Impact of Climate Change on the Political, Economic, and Demographic Situation of Iraq, 11th May 2024, Erbil, Iraq.