

# Promoting Higher Education in Iraq

## USAID's HEAD Program

June 2004

In support of the Higher Education Ministry, USAID's Higher Education and Development (HEAD) Program brings together American and Iraqi universities to reestablish academic excellence in Iraq's higher education system. USAID has committed \$20.7 million to five partnerships that support Iraqi universities as they emerge after years of isolation from developments in teaching methodologies, research, and curricula, and decades of diminishing resources and infrastructure damage.



*USAID, CPA, and U.S. university representatives at the HEAD post-award conference in Amman, Jordan*

### Program Partners

**Public Health and Sanitation:** Jackson State University and the Mississippi Consortium for International Development (JSU/MCID), an association of Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Tougaloo College, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Benetech, and U.S.-Iraq Business Resources, Inc. partner with the Universities of Mosul and Dahuk and the Nursing Institute/Dahuk.

**Legal Education System Reform:** The Human Rights Institute, DePaul University College of Law, and Italy's International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences partner with the Universities of Baghdad, Basrah, and Sulaymaniyah.

**Institutional, Academic, and Leadership Strengthening:** The University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University, and Langston University partner with Al Anbar University, Basrah University, Salah ad Din University in Arbil, Babil University, and the University of Technology of Baghdad.

**Archeology, Assyriology, and Environmental Health:** The Research Foundation of the State University of New York/Stony Brook and the Universities of Chicago, Boston, and Oxford partner with Baghdad University, Al Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad and the Universities of Basrah and Mosul.

**Strengthening Academic, Research, and Extension Programs:** The University of Hawaii College of Agriculture and Human Resources partners with University of Mosul Hamam al Alil and University of Dahuk.

Special Feature

## Public Health and Sanitation

Jackson State University and the University of Mosul developed a three-part program to revitalize the Iraqi university's public health and sanitation program.

**Recover:** The program will improve the laboratories, classrooms, office equipment and textbooks of Iraqi partner universities.

**Retool:** The program will strengthen the skills of public health and sanitation engineers at the University of Mosul through exchanges, courses and conferences for faculty.

**Revitalize:** The Iraqi universities' institutional viability will be increased by improved Internet access, increased access to textbooks, journals, and curriculum development.

Progress to date:

- The program has established offices, recruited staff, and developed a needs assessment for university refurbishments and procurements.
- Five University of Mosul students attended the 8th annual Pan-Arab Diabetes conference in Egypt from March 22-27.
- Developed a website at [www.mcidiraq.org](http://www.mcidiraq.org)



Students at Dahuk University College of Medicine

## Strengthening Agricultural Academic, Research, and Extension Programs

This program promotes economic growth and agricultural sustainability by enhancing higher education and outreach in agricultural sciences. The University of Hawaii and its partners will establish a Center of Excellence in agricultural research and extension to farmers; train administrators, faculty, students, and stakeholders at the University of Mosul; and develop human capacity in agricultural sciences at the University of Dahuk.

**Revitalizing Education Programs:** This program offers several activities for Iraqi graduate students and faculty, including: graduate degree training and research fellowships; visiting scholarships and professional conference travel for Iraqi faculty and relevant workshops.

**Enhancing Infrastructure:** The program will re-equip libraries, research and teaching facilities to re-establish agricultural science programs at the Iraqi partner universities. The program will also co-sponsor the publication of the Iraq Journal of Agricultural Science.

Progress to date:

- Iraqi university library received electronic articles, journals and books as well as an electronic agricultural library.
- Computer and communication systems are being installed at both the Universities of Mosul and Dahuk.
- The selection of participants for the Visiting Scholar and Research Grant programs is underway; six students have been selected to participate in the one year graduate studies program at the University of Hawaii.



University of Mosul Computer Center

## ***Developing Institutional, Academic, and Leadership in Iraqi Universities***

The heart of this higher education program led by the University of Oklahoma rests on two objectives: providing sufficient educational infrastructure and strengthening university administration and leadership.

***Establishing an Effective Learning Environment:*** The Iraqi university partners will be equipped with computer laboratories, discipline-specific software, and education materials such as textbooks and journals. In addition, an online database will be established to provide access to electronic journals and periodicals.

***Training:*** Training in specialized fields and technical equipment will be offered to complement the laboratories and instructional materials being provided.

***Strengthening University Administration and Leadership:*** Leadership workshops will bring together university presidents and deans from throughout Iraq.

Progress to date:

- A research effort is underway to survey academic, public and school libraries to determine the Internet access required for an online database.
- More than 700 potential textbook donors have been identified and a commitment of \$4,500 has been made for geology and petroleum engineering texts.
- A delegation of Iraqi university presidents traveled to the US with the CPA Senior Advisor for Higher Education from April 28 to May 4 to attend discussions on the nature, implications and challenges of liberal education's role in developing a democratic society.



*The main entrance to the Exhibit Area of the Baghdad Museum and a reproduction of an Assyrian Gate found in Ninevah (USAID photo)*

## ***Archeology and Assyriology***

The Archeology and Assyriology Program seeks to improve archeology and cuneiform studies at the Universities of Mosul and Baghdad through two major efforts:

***Institution Building:*** The program will offer workshops, curriculum reforms, and training in archeological information tools, as well as graduate study programs at SUNY Stony Brook.

***Refurbishing Libraries and Laboratories:*** The program will upgrade partner institution archaeology libraries with critical books, online journals and digital references, and train librarians in catalog and research methods.

Progress to date:

- purchased nearly 1,000 volumes.
- In mid-March, five Iraqi faculty attended the 4th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East in Berlin.
- Eight graduate students have been admitted for advanced studies and applied for US visas.
- Computer lab/internet installation is underway.
- 54 faculty and graduate students will attend 10-week summer workshops in Amman.

## Environmental Health

In partnership with the Universities of Mosul, Basrah and Al Mustansariyah, SUNY Stony Brook seeks to establish a strong infrastructure in environmental health to stimulate national interest and provide tools for preventive health services research.

**Building Capacity:** The program will establish Environment Health and Research Centers in each partner institution, which will be staffed by Iraqis trained in the United States. A “mini-grant” program will support research and new programs in environmental health.

**Refurbishing Facilities and Libraries:** The three Environmental Health and Research Centers will be equipped with laboratories, teaching equipment, communication systems, books, journals, and databases.

Progress to date:

- This program has begun establishing the Environmental Health Centers and has directors and coordinators in place. The first group of staff trainees departed for training in the US.
- The procurement of environmental health and related discipline books is underway.



## Legal Education System Reform

The Legal Education System Reform program through DePaul University offers four distinct components that are designed to be integrated and mutually reinforcing:

### **Rule of Law and Good Governance:**

Through seminars and the establishment of a research center, the program will support a dialogue on rule of law among faculty and students.

**Curriculum Reform:** Existing curricula will be improved through exposure to international developments in law.

**Clinical Education:** Using moot courts, advocacy seminars, courtroom visits and externships, law students will gain practical experience in trial advocacy.

**Library and Education Technology:** The program will re-equip libraries with computers, web-based research resources, and implementing a librarian training program.

Progress to date:

- Preparations are underway for the first of four Rule of Law seminars in the summer of 2004 titled Post Conflict Justice in Iraq
- At Baghdad University, 20 fourth year students have been selected for the courtroom visitation program.
- In the Basrah program courtroom visits are expected to begin in the next few weeks, and judges, prosecutors and practicing attorneys will be conducting workshops at the university.
- The procurement of books from Iraqi and Egyptian distributors for the Iraqi university law libraries is underway

Left: Law library at the University of Basrah Photo: USAID