

NEW IRRIGATION PROJECT

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The Minister of Irrigation has announced that a new irrigation project will soon be operated. The project will be named after President Saddam Hussein and it will provide the provinces of Tameem, Saladdin and Diyala with water.

Saddam's irrigation project consists of three stages. Each stage is divided into several parts. The first part is of an area of 350 thousand donums irrigated by a 67 kilometres concrete plated canals with a capacity of 280 cubic metres per second. Work is going on to complete the second stage of the canal which is 35 kilometres long so as to reach the agricultural lands in Diyala province.

The internal irrigation networks consist of asbestos pipes distributed in fields and are centrally controlled by passages specially designed for this reason.

These networks guarantee the irrigation of 160 thousand donums. Irrigation process is completed without any loss of water through leakage or evaporation which is a usual problem in other traditional irrigation methods.

On the other hand, other irrigation facilities are used in the framework of this project such as spraying areas of 25 thousand donums in addition to the setting up of a comprehensive network of main roads and eight villages 577 houses each.

Eight other villages are being set-up to serve the same purpose. Four pilot farms were established where scientific researches are completed on water tubes used for different agricultural crops of the project in addition to a large sugar beet farm.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR FIVE POWER STATIONS AWARDED

A turnkey construction contract for five 132-kV power stations, valued at about \$60 million, has been awarded to an Italian company, Societa Anonima Elettificazione. To be built in Kefek, Nasirriyah, Thoba and Hammar, they will serve oil-related and irrigation schemes. The fifth will be an extension to the Al-Jazair substation near Baghdad.

FRENCH COMPANY TO DESIGN ARBIL UNIVERSITY

The masterplan for Arbil's Saladdin university has been awarded to a group led by a French company, SCET International. Work, for the State Organisation for Buildings, will involve designing a university for 12,000 students, possibly increasing to 16,000, and student and staff housing.

There will be four main faculties (engineering, medicine, arts and science), plus social and cultural amenities.

The built-up area will total 1 million square metres.