



November 28, 2017
No. 20

State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Masahisa Sato's Visit to Iraq

1. Between 27th and 28th of November, Mr Masahisa Sato, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited Baghdad and Basra, the Republic of Iraq.
2. On 27 November, State Minister Sato had a meeting in Baghdad with Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, Foreign Minister, the Republic of Iraq, and Dr Nizar Al Khairallah, Senior Deputy Foreign Minister, the Republic of Iraq, respectively.
3. In the meetings, State Minister Sato exchanged views on the progress in the fight against terrorism, the reconciliation of the people of Iraq and so on. The Iraqi side expressed the appreciation to Japan which has contributed to the reconstruction of Iraq after the Iraqi War. For his part, State Minister Sato highlighted the importance of the solidarity of the people of Iraq in addressing the challenge of the reconstruction. Furthermore, both sides agreed to enhance exchanges in a wide variety of fields towards 2019 which will mark the 80th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Iraq. During his visit, State Minister Sato also paid a courtesy call on Dr. Saleem Al-Jubouri, Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq, and had a meeting with Major General Felix Gedney, Deputy Commander-Strategy and Support (S&S) Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve.
4. On 28 November, State Minister Sato had meetings in Basra with the Basra Governor, Mr Asad Al Edani and Lt. Gen. Jamil Al Shimmari, Basra Operations Command. The State Minister also visited the Basra Water Supply Plant and the Hartha Thermal Power Plant which are the sites of symbolic Yen Loan projects by which Japan has been contributing to the improvement of the lives of the people of Iraq, and expressed his appreciation to the efforts of Japanese and Iraqi people involved in the projects.

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