

*Bakir Ahmed Aziz AL-JAF,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Iraq to Ukraine*

COOPERATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND UKRAINE: VAST AND NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES

Diplomatic relations between Iraq and Ukraine were established more than a quarter of a century ago. On December 16, 1992, the non-resident Embassy of the Republic of Iraq was accredited to Ukraine, though the cooperation in economic, cultural and scientific fields had begun before that date. The relations between the two friendly countries reached a new level in 2000, when Ukraine decided to open its Embassy in Baghdad. Iraq, in its turn, inaugurated its Embassy in Kyiv in 2002, thus marking a new stage in bilateral relations as reflected by the signing of several memoranda of understanding in numerous significant fields and the first meetings of the Ukrainian-Iraqi Joint Commission.

Since 2003, the level of relations with Ukraine has risen considerably which had a positive impact on different areas, particularly the growth in trade turnover (including private sector), the increasing number of Iraqis studying in Ukrainian universities, multiple visits of officials from both countries, the signing of agreements and bilateral memoranda of understanding, further consideration of draft agreements between the appropriate ministries of both countries expected to be signed this year. In addition, in 2018, Iraqi Airways launched direct flights from Baghdad to Kyiv, thus making traveling for citizens and official delegations from both countries easier and more comfortable.

Proceeding from our record of working in Ukraine, we would like to note that cooperation opportunities between Iraq and Ukraine are vast and numerous and we are closely cooperating with the Government of Ukraine to develop and diversify these opportunities seeking to raise relations between Iraq and Ukraine to a new level as per the potential of the two countries and in full compliance with norms of diplomatic and international interaction pursued by the Iraqi Government towards all the friendly and peace-loving countries of the world.

We would also like to praise the lasting positive relations between the Iraqi Embassy and Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reflected through the development of diplomatic cooperation in the mutual interest of Iraq and Ukraine.

In conclusion, the Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to express its highest appreciation and pride in the long-standing friendship between the



*Бакір Ахмед Азіз Аль-Джаф, Надзвичайний і Повноважний Посол Республіки Ірак в Україні, під час Фестивалю культур народів світу OUTLOOK
Bakir Ahmed Aziz Al-Jaff, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Iraq to Ukraine, at the OUTLOOK World Culture Festival*

two countries and their history. The Embassy also extends its deepest gratitude to the Directorate-General for Rendering Services to Diplomatic Missions for providing the opportunity to write this article about the relations between Iraq and Ukraine and for the constructive and continuing cooperation over the years with the diplomatic missions, accredited to Ukraine, in particular, the organization of visits and trips for diplomats to explore the beautiful nature of Ukraine, including sightseeing tours around Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities as well as the oldest universities in Ukraine.

Our best wishes for progress and prosperity to Iraq and Ukraine!