

A New Initiative to Expand Iraq' Crude Oil Exports

Arabian Sea-Basrah-Mediterranean Pipelines

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Calls to expand Iraq's oil export has intensified lately. All such calls focus on westward direction, suggest unilateral routes, and govern by bilateral arrangements. My new initiative, in a form of **"Project concept"**, is totally different in directions, in routes, in funding and in the governing multilateral modalities.

The Arabian Sea-Basrah-Mediterranean Pipelines -ASBMP Initiative, comprising two different separated/independent sub-systems or routes, but could be integrated in a one revers-pumping regional pipeline network:

The Northern-Westward Route, Basrah- Mediterranean pipelines network.

The Southern-Eastward Route, Basrah-Arabian Sea/Gulf of Oman pipelines network.

The details of the ASBMP initiative were presented and debated, in Arabic, during a Zoom meeting organised by the **"Mushtarek"** platform on Friday 14th August.*

Briefly, the Northern-Westward Route, Basrah- Mediterranean pipelines network comprises three sets of pipelines:

- 1- Basrah-Haditha Pipeline-BHP. The main purpose of this pipeline is to transmit crude oil from the south to supply the refineries on its route to Haditha, and to export oil through Turkey and Syria.
- 2- Haditha-Fishkhabor-Ceyhan (HFC). This is the same existing ITP, which takes crude oil from Kirkuk and other fields operated by the federal North Oil Company-NOC, and in recent years, oil from KRG controlled fields. Supporting crude supplies from southern Iraq, come through BHP. The ITP bilateral agreement expired late July, but a one-year transitional commercial understanding was concluded on 1st August, while the final comprehensive agreement should be concluded during the year.
- 3- Haditha-Banyas Pipeline- HBP (or the Syrian Route). This a new export pipeline Banyas/Tartos in Syria. At a certain location close to Banyas, a connection for a much smaller pipeline for domestic use only goes to Lebanon /Tripoli and then to Jordan/ Zargah (a trunk option from Banyas is possible instead). This connecting pipeline replaces the proposed two separate pipelines: Haditha-Tripoli and Haditha-Aqaba.

The HBP and the connected pipeline are to be financed by the three countries (Syria, Lebanon and Jordan) and the governing modality is through multilateral agreement by the governments of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Hence, the Syrian Route is a partnership premised on shared relative cost and benefits and managed by a joint-venture company formed by or approved formally by the four countries.

Oil export through the Northern-Westward Route, Basrah- Mediterranean serves European, North Africa countries and the Americas market destinations.

Apart from the fiscal and governance regime relating to the Syrian Route, the designed capacity for Haditha-Banyas Pipeline should be optimised based on available oil from the south, NOC, KRG and earmarked oil for export through Turkey.

The following map is an imaginary AI generated and should not be considered for engineering purposes and for the accuracy of the current national boundaries.



The Southern-Eastward Route, Basrah-Arabian Sea/Gulf of Oman pipeline network.

This is totally a new pipeline with the following basic information:

- 1- The main pipeline begins from Basrah, south Iraq and ends at an export terminal on either Gulf of Oman or Arabian Sea. Three export terminals are envisaged as possible options: Musandam- Oman (Gulf of Oman), Al-Fujairah-UAE (Gulf of Oman), and Doqum-Oman (Arabian Sea).
- 2- National pipeline feeders connect to the main pipeline from each of the participating countries: Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and Oman.
- 3- The primary destinations of the new pipeline are Asian and East Asian markets. Exports to the European markets through the Red Sea, and to the Americas through Southern Africa route are served by the new pipeline. Moreover, the pipeline could be used, through a reverse pumping, from the Arabian Gulf to the Mediterranean.
- 4- The new pipeline is a complementary to seaborne oil transport through the Strait of Hormuz, not a replacement to it.

- 5- The entire pipeline system and the export terminals are constructed, funded and managed as a collective partnership entity by all or most of the mentioned beneficiary countries, or a “Sponsored Venture” by OAPEC- the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. The latter is more feasible, as OAPEC has sponsored many petroleum related ventures.

A conceptual preliminary assessment was discussed premised on “Benefits-Costs-Opportunities-Challenges “-BCOC approach considering historical evidence, geopolitical risks, strategic significance, political economy considerations and the potential of the Iraqi petroleum sector in a long-term perspective.

The assessment indicates that it is far better for Iraq to pursue a well-structured partnership option for exporting Iraq’s oil through:

- 1- The Serian Route, Haditha-Banyas, instead of three separate pipelines from Haditha to each of Banyas, Tripoli and Zarga/Aqaba.
- 2- The Southern-Eastward Route collective pipeline, instead of an Iraqi pipeline from Basrah to Doqum, that was preliminary agreed by Al-Sudany previous government in 2025.

It is not necessary to execute the two routes simultaneously; each could be executed independently, but the coordination and the timing is required.

An elaborated FEED study for each of the two routes is vital for route optimisation, the current “Project Concept” becomes a “Project Proposal” when the Ministry of Oil accept and developed further the proposed Initiative.

A tentative action plan for each of the two routes was suggested for the consideration of the Ministry of Oil.

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* The video recording of the entire presentation and the debate is available on the following link.

<https://www.mushtarek.org/groups/679b938b7fd0bd55baff8b70/posts/post/6a8094ae1b1e15cf2d296529>

The PowerPoint slides are in Arabic, for AI generated translation of the slides into English, Kurdish ...etc click, on  at the top of the page. It might take time to finish the translation. The following link provide the slides and the AI translation:

<https://www.mushtarek.org/groups/679b938b7fd0bd55baff8b70/posts/post/6a80bffd8d66711ea3739c6>