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Introduction:

Nippur (Sumerian: Nibru, Akkadian: Nibbur) is one of the most famous ancient Sumerian cities that is located 25km east of the modern Nuffar city in Afak, Al-Qādisiyyah Governorate, Iraq. Nippur was famous in worshipping the Sumerian god Enlil, the "Lord Wind", ruler of the cosmos. However, the archaeological site is still severely neglected due to several factors and is inhospitable to many visitors from the people of Diwaniyah city and other cities due to the lack of the facilities including but not limiting to, paved roads, visitor center, archaeological touring and many other factors that put great challenges in stimulating tourism and small income-generating projects in this important site.

Description of the project

Basically, a small welcoming center (Cafeteria) that can provide visitors from all ages and backgrounds with packaged and unpackaged food and many other hot and cold beverages plus a free access to sanitation facility that is attached to the main visitor center. Car and busses parking area is essential and surrounded with the appropriate lighting and camera system. This first-time ever establishment of a cafeteria near the city of Nippur is an important step towards stimulating and revitalizing tourism that has been lost for many years.

Selection criteria

The selection criteria of the project are based upon providing safe and affordable access to the archaeological site of Nippur, plus providing touring services. Market analysis of the project is very promising as mainly in Iraq there are no such services are available currently. Thus, it has been estimated that the project is cost-effective and can generate jobs and financial income within weeks of the first establishment. It is estimated that revenues could payback the cost within the first two years of the work. It is estimated that this project will help in establishing other small-income projects for the people of Afak City, such as those who can facilitate visitors traveling to the site, selling local products, and accommodation for night stayers. One of the main advantages of this project is the low capital that is required to invest in the proposed project compared to other highly expensive projects.

Goals of the project

- Encourage schools and university students to visit this historical city by organizing trips regularly.
- Provide job opportunities for individuals in Afaq city that is considered very poor.
- Achieving profit and financial returns through investment in establishing this project.
- Attracting many tourists to this historic city by providing the means and entertaining services provided in this project.
- Stimulate the commercial movement in the area that might motivate further investments with other sectors and projects in that city.
- Supplying the general budget with additional hard currency resources.

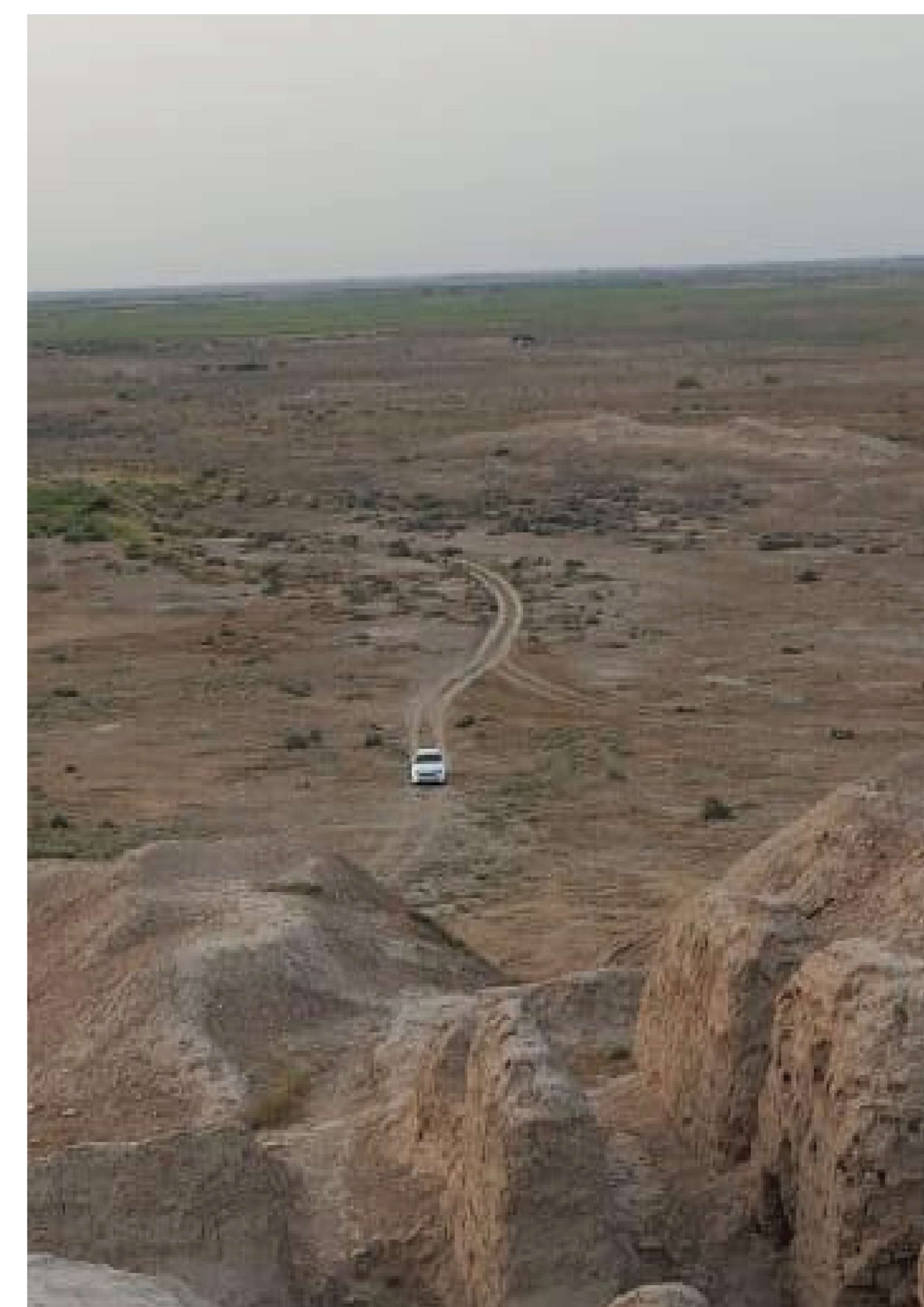
To conclude, this project is providing a promising opportunity to the unemployed graduate students of Archaeology from University of Al-Qadisiyah to establish a career that is significantly related to their education. It will also contribute to establishing other projects that are in direct contact with the lives of the people of Afaq. A major expansion in the archaeological activities could also be enhanced through such activities.



Ruins of a temple platform in Nippur



Suggested welcome and information center



The unpaved road leads to the site of Nippur