



e-Newsletter

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"Syria, the cradle of civilization and the gateway to history."

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First Arab Expatriates Engineers Conference



The first international conference for the expatriates Arab engineers will be held in Tunisia on April 28, 2008. The conference will be held under the auspices of H.E. President of Tunisia, Zine El Abidin Ben Ali, and with the presence of Secretary General of Arab League, Mr. Amr Mousa, and a number of ministers from Arab countries. For more information please click [here](#).

Capital Investment in Tourism



Syria is pushing hard to sell itself as a tourism destination, increasing state funding for promotional activities, while opening up investment opportunities in the sector as it seeks to cash in on the swell in the Middle East tourist trade. A report issued by the World Tourism Organization at the end of January showed a 13% increase in the number of international arrivals in the Middle East in 2007, more than twice the global average. To help build on this success, the ministry of tourism has allocated \$5.5m for promotional activities in 2008 and has waived or cut some of the fees for companies and travel agencies taking part in exhibitions outside Syria, local press reported. To read more please click [here](#).

Prize to Rekindle Arabic Fiction



Abu Dhabi awarded the first international prize for Arabic fiction, part of an attempt by the United Arab Emirates to use government surpluses to rekindle Arabic literature. Modeled on Britain's Man Booker Prize the \$50,000 (€32,600, £24,850) award, supported by the Emirates Foundation went to the Egyptian author Baha Taher for his book Sunset Oasis. Mr Taher beat five other short-listed authors – two Lebanese, the others Syrian, Jordanian and Egyptian to the prize. Their works deal with themes common to various parts of the troubled Middle East, from civil war to the nature of exile. To read more please click [here](#).

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