



# e-Newsletter

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

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## Ford Motor Company Environmental Grant to Syrian Projects



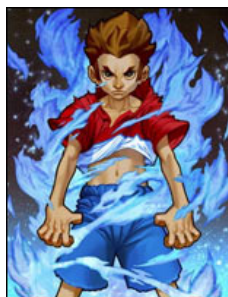
Fourteen environmental projects will share a total of \$90,000 in grants from Ford Motor Company this year, as part of the company's Conservation & Environmental Grants program in the GCC and Levant countries. The recipient projects from Syria are: Reforestation of Mount Saydeh, Flora Syria Online Environment, Greening of arid areas in coastal mountains in Syria, Lattakia Cleanup. To read more please click [here](#).

## InterContinental Damascus in 2010



InterContinental Hotels Group has signed an exclusive agreement with MAK Hotel Holdings, a member of the M.A. Kharafi Group of Kuwait, to develop an InterContinental Hotel in the Syrian capital. Located in the city centre, the 370-room InterContinental Damascus, due for completion in 2010, will form part of the capital's only integrated development which will include a shopping mall, cinema complex and office space. Targeted at the luxury leisure traveller, InterContinental Damascus will be the perfect starting point for those keen to explore the areas historic sites, known to be one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. To find more please click [here](#).

## A Comic Hero for the Arab World



Suleiman Bakhit's dream of becoming the Walt Disney of the Arab world began in a Minnesota classroom full of American first-grade students. "Then one of the boys asked: 'Do you have Arab superheroes? Is there an Arab Superman?' And it hit me. There are none. So I asked myself - what would an Arab superhero look like?" Mr Bakhit recalls. "Slowly, I started sketching and thinking. I taught myself how to draw." Over the next three years, Mr Bakhit not only honed his drawing skills, but he also developed his first story, a tale about a gang of Arab children in the year 2050. He became increasingly convinced there was not only a market for his stories and characters but that there was a real hunger among young Arabs for indigenous content and for home-grown superheroes who would speak to their aspirations and talk in their language. To read full story please click [here](#).

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