



e-Newsletter

HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF SYRIA

Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A

NOVEMBER 22, 2010

VOLUME III, NUMBER 5

First Conference of Syrian Honorary Consuls

Dear Friends:



The first conference of all Honorary Consuls of Syria took place last Sunday and Monday (November 14 & 15) in Damascus. Almost all Syrian Consuls from around the world (about 50) participated in this exciting meeting. I had the privilege to participate in the preparation work for the conference, and to give the speech on behalf of the Honorary Consuls at the opening ceremony. Over two days we met and had open discussion with the Prime Minister, and his deputy for economic affairs, and with the ministers of foreign affairs, tourism, economic, and expatriate affairs. The Syrians officials gave detailed presentations about the activities and policies of their government, and listen patiently to our complaints and suggestions.



The highlight of the conference was the meeting for over an hour with the President of Syria on Monday morning. The President in his dynamic and warm style engaged the consuls in a lively presentation and questions and answers session, and let us all leave the Presidential Palace with renewed energy and enthusiasm for better serving Syria and its causes.

The conference was an excellent opportunity for the Honorary Consuls to get to know and spend time with each others, and to learn from each other experiences. And also provided a chance for the Consuls to meet and strengthen their relationship with Syrians officials and government ministers.

Disseminating government information to the Honorary Consuls and to the Syrian expatriate communities a large was a recurring issue of discussion during the conference sessions. Also a lot of discussions and questions were geared toward facilitating expatriates affaires and strengthening their ties with the home country.

The conference provided me also with the opportunity to discuss collaboration ideas and prepare the ground for new exciting cultural projects to be held in Detroit in the coming months; stay tuned!

Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Naji Arwashan
Honorary Consul General



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