



coastlines of Africa to reach its western coastlines through the Cape of Good Hope, returning to Syria in due course. Another voyage is planned which will take the ship to the United Kingdom where it will be displayed in the British Museum in London as the centerpiece of the Phoenician civilization display which will be held in 2009 and 2010.

The project is carried out by a delegation of experienced seamen with support from the Syrian-British Association, the British Royal Geographical Society and the British Museum, with the participation of a number of geographers, historians and archeologists and under the auspices of the General Secretariat of the "Damascus, Arab Capital of Culture 2008" festivities.

Expedition Leader Philip Beale said "We realise that we will be facing many challenges and difficulties during our ten-month trip, but we will be doing cultural and documentary work, and before Phoenicia casts anchor in the British Museum, we will discover more about Phoenician sailors and the first trip around Africa. Me and the team wish to thank all who contributed to this project, particularly the people of Arwad island for hosting this project and their support that helped transform Phoenicia from a dream to reality."

Chairman of the British Syrian Society Dr. Fawaz al-Akhras affirmed that the launch of the ship recalls the role of Phoenicians in writing the history of the old world, as the Phoenician Empire wasn't built

by violent and brutal conquests, but was rather the first historic example of what is currently known as "subtle diplomacy" The Phoenicians built an empire based mainly on trade and exploration, reaching human settlements thousands of miles away from home, weaving a network of mutual interests that met to form a model for global economy a long time before the rise of globalization in its current form.

The first leg of the voyage involved getting the ship to Port Said in Egypt and using that time to work on a number of things to make the ship more seaworthy.

Attempts to sail through the Red sea proved somewhat problematic but after a number of stops and repairs the vessel entered Port Sudan on the 14th of October.

At the time of writing, the crew were attempting to fit an engine to assist in manouvering the ship and the Ship's Blog provides fascinating reading for those interested in the detail.

www.phoenicia.org.uk

Photographs kindly provided by Jennie Hill

