

DAMASCUS 2020: THE VISION FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

On the 31/3/2007, the British Syrian Society initiated its Damascus lecture series event by hosting a one day seminar entitled "Damascus 2020: the vision for urban development and transportation" and the case study was the controversial project of King Faisal street.

The seminar which was jointly organised by the European Commission's Municipality Administration Modernisation MAM program was under the patronage of the Prime Minister and saw the participation of numerous governmental and non-governmental organisations, these included:

- Governorate of Damascus
- Governorate of Rural Damascus
- Ministry of Local Administration and Environment
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Housing
- The General Company of Researches and Technical Studies
- UNESCO
- JAICA (Japanese Development Fund)
- Tercon (German Consultant)
- University of Damascus
- Friends of Damascus Society
- Engineers syndicate
- The Chamber of Commerce
- The Chamber of Industry
- The Chamber of Tourism

The aim of the seminar was to:

- 1) Provide speakers from both sides of the argument with an open platform from which to offer their invaluable expertise, and
- 2) Present governmental and non-governmental organisations and individuals and agencies concerned with the opportunity to present their case and highlight its main points so that they could be more widely, transparently and constructively discussed.

The elements discussed in the seminar were:

- Outline of the existing transportation master plan for Damascus and Greater Damascus area by concerned government officials.
- Views on the pros and cons of the existing

transportation master plan for Damascus and Greater Damascus area by concerned non-governmental experts.

- Outline of the existing urban expansion master plan for Damascus and Greater Damascus area by concerned government officials.
- Views on the pros and cons of the existing urban expansion master plan for Damascus and Greater Damascus area by concerned non-governmental experts.
- Outline of the King Faisal road project by concerned government officials.
- Views on the pros and cons of the King Faisal road project.
- Alternative solutions to the King Faisal road project.

