

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme  
Damascus, Syria

---

Tel: (963-11) 6129811



## Launching TAWASUL Network for Young Journalist

**DAMASCUS, 27 May 2009** - TAWASUL, a new online network for journalists under the age of 30 established with the support the Minister of Information of the Syrian Arab Republic and UNDP, will be officially launched on 27 May 2009. The network is the result of the collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme in Syria, the Knight International Journalism Fellowships Program of the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), and the Ministry of Information of the Syrian Arab Republic and is also co-funded by the Government of the United Kingdom.

TAWASUL, which translates as 'linking' or 'connecting' will bring together young journalists in the fields of Print, Broadcast, Photography, Caricature and Animation in order to exchange works, ideas and experiences in a mutual and collective space. As part of UNDP's Media Development Portfolio with the Ministry of Information, TAWASUL Network was created within the framework of UNDP Project "Empowering Young Journalists in Achieving the MDG's" which aims to strengthen the capacity of the media sector and journalists in order to enhance national dialogue and awareness on development and social issues in Syria.

The launch on 27 May 2009 will be held under the patronage of Dr. Mohsen Bilal, the Minister of Information and will be attended by the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Ismail Ould Chiekh Ahmed and H.E. Simon Collis, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom. The event will be held at the Reception Hall at the Ministry of Information in Damascus at 7:30 PM.

The creation of the TAWASUL Network was overseen by the UNDP-supported project, through a participatory process involving the journalists themselves; this included the selection of the name, logo and organizational structure of the Network. It was then followed by an intensive four-week training cycles conducted by a group of selected national and international media specialists guided by the expertise of the ICFJ. The Launch Event will hold a formal graduation ceremony officiated by the Minister of Information for the first two cycles of trainees journalists who will go on to constitute the core membership and editorial board of TAWASUL.

In parallel, UNDP and the Ministry of Information will also launch the Journalist Training Center on the fourth floor of the Ministry. The center was prepared and established as part of the UNDP-supported Project and will serve as the center of operation for TAWASUL. A photography and caricature exhibition of the works of the journalists dealing with issues of social co-existence, the Millennium Development Goals in Syria and other development themes will also be on display at a reception following the launch and graduation ceremony.

\*\*\*

For more information and media attendance, please contact:  
Media and Communications Team [syriamct@undp.org](mailto:syriamct@undp.org),  
United Nations Development Programme, Damascus, Syria  
Tel. +963 11 6129811 ext. 226 Fax: +963 11 6114541  
<http://www.undp.org.sy/>

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.