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## PRESS RELEASE

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Ambassadors from Africa and the Middle East, historians, sailors, education experts and supporters are joining organisers of the Phoenician Ship Expedition at a reception at the Syrian Embassy in London this evening for an update on the project's progress

The 70 foot vessel, which is being built on the Syrian island of Arwad, is due to be launched within the next few weeks and will set sail in August on a hazardous and lengthy voyage, circumnavigating the coast of Africa, covering 17,000 miles and 12 months at sea.

The expedition has the support of the Royal Geographical Society, experts from the British Museum and much interest from geographers, historians and archaeologists around the world.

Because the expedition will yield so much valuable educational material, organisers are hoping to be able to fund a teacher to be among the crew.

"This is really bringing history alive. Children from Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the rest of the world will be able to follow the voyage's progress as we discover more about the Phoenicians and their amazing sense of discovery. If we have a teacher on board, we can ensure that the material we collect will be properly documented for future use in schools everywhere." said expedition leader Philip Beale.

Some of the 20 strong, multi-national crew have been recruited but Philip Beale welcomes more applicants, especially from Africa and the Middle East.

"This will be a fantastic experience and we really want to encourage people to take part if they can. Not everyone has to be highly experienced in sailing and we really want people from Africa and the Middle East to join the trip."

Discussions are already well underway regarding a major TV documentary about the Phoenician Ship Expedition.

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