

The Damascus Region in the Pre-Classical Era

A Symposium organized by the National Museum,
the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic,
and the Finnish Institute in Damascus,
under the Patronage of the Syrian Ministry of Culture
23-25 October 2011, in Damascus

April 10, 2011

Dear Colleague,

The National Museum, the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Finnish Institute in Damascus, have the honour of inviting you to the symposium *The Damascus Region in the Pre-Classical Era* held under the patronage of the Syrian Ministry of Culture, 23-25 October 2011, in Damascus.

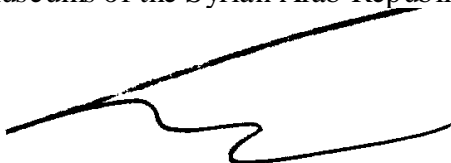
In the past, symposia on Damascus have drawn archaeologists, architects and historians, but all have concentrated on the city's development in Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods. Recent discoveries made by both Syrian and international expeditions in Damascus and its vicinity have provided much insight into older periods. Therefore, we have taken the initiative to organize a conference where new data and historical theories on the Damascene area before the Hellenistic period will be presented and discussed.

The conference will be held in the Damascene Hall of the National Museum. On the third day of the meeting, there will an excursion to sites near Damascus. Conference languages are English and Arabic.

We hope you are able to accept the invitation and we look forward to receiving the **title and abstract of your paper/poster by June 1**. In order to allow enough time for the translation of contributions, the **deadline for submission of papers is September 1, 2011**. Please, kindly send all communications and enquiries by email to Dr Raija Mattila at raija.mattila@helsinki.fi

With cordial greetings,

Dr Michel Al-Maqdissi
Director of Excavations
General Directorate of Antiquities and
Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic



Dr Ari Kerkkänen
Director
Finnish Institute in Damascus

