

May 25, 2011

Hillary Clinton prizes Muslim Civilization



US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, officially opened an award-winning exhibition about the scientific achievements of Muslim Civilization at the California Science Center in Los Angeles today. The 1001 Inventions exhibition, which has already attracted more than one million visitors during the past year, landed at California's most popular museum.

Speaking via video, Secretary Clinton praised the work of the 1001 Inventions initiative for "celebrating a millennium of science and innovation in the Muslim world," and described the launch of the exhibition as "an exciting day."

"I am delighted to send greetings to each of you at this year's "1001Inventions," celebrating a millennium of science and innovation in the Muslim world.

This exhibition honors the remarkable accomplishments of Muslims throughout history: from a woman who founded a university in the 9th century – to a 13th century inventor and mechanical engineer – to a surgeon whose writings influenced European medicine for hundreds of years.

And, of course, we're seeing the impact of technology in the Muslim world right now – as young people throughout the Middle East and North Africa find new ways to use social networking to get organized and express their aspirations.

Connection technologies offer an unprecedented opportunity – a platform through which everyone from farmers to students to entrepreneurs can exchange ideas and hatch plans for the world's next great invention.

But technology does not decide the future – people do. As this exhibition shows, the Muslim world has a proud history of innovators. Now is the time to tap into that legacy, to harness the power of science and technology, and to create new pathways to prosperity.

This is an exciting day. Thank you for letting me share it with you."

About 1001 Inventions

1001 Inventions is a global educational initiative that promotes awareness of scientific and cultural achievements from the 'Golden Age' of Muslim civilization and how those contributions helped build the foundations of our modern world. This period lasted approximately 1000 years from the 7th century onwards. The 1001 Inventions global touring exhibition and the educational products that accompany the exhibition all highlight the scientific and technological achievements made by men and women, of different faiths and cultures, who lived in or were connected with broader Muslim civilization.

Originally funded by the British government and launched in the United Kingdom in 2006, 1001 Inventions was created by the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation (FSTC). FSTC is a British-based non-profit, international network of the world's leading academics with expertise in the history of science and technology. Both 1001 Inventions and FSTC are non-religious, apolitical organizations and have received support from various arms of the British government, the Wellcome Trust and the British Science Association. Prior to its launch in London in January 2010, the content of 1001 Inventions was rigorously reviewed by its inaugural host, the London Science Museum.