

# 1001 Inventions: Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization

06 June 2011, Monday / SEMANUR YILDIZ , LOS ANGELES



1001 Inventions, an award-winning exhibition about the scientific achievements of Muslim Civilization, was opened at the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

Hundreds of VIP guests attended an exclusive event to celebrate the 1001 Inventions exhibition, from New York City to its new home in Los Angeles.

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. The 1001 Inventions exhibition, which has attracted more than 1 million visitors over the past year during an international tour, opened for a VIP launch day attended by LA County Sheriff Lee Baca and Ambassadors from LA-based foreign consulates.

In her pre-recorded message, 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."

Mrs. Clinton remarked that "the Muslim world has a proud history of innovators" and highlighted the achievements of pioneers like Fatima Al-Fihri, who founded the world's first modern university, and master engineer Al-Jazari, who created the crank mechanisms that drive every plane, train and automobile on the planet.



Prof. Salim Al-Hassani, Chairman of 1001 Inventions, commented, "We're honored that Secretary Clinton agreed to launch our exhibition here at one of the most prestigious science museums in the world. California Science Center has an international reputation for excellence in providing engaging and entertaining science experiences for young and old alike. "The goal of 1001 Inventions is to highlight the astounding contribution that Muslim civilization has made in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and how those advances still affect our lives today. More than a million people have already visited the 1001 Inventions exhibition during the first year of its global tour and that is the greatest endorsement we could ever hope for." he said.

"We are pleased to host 1001 Inventions in its West Coast premiere," said Jeffrey Rudolph, President and CEO of the California Science Center. "The exhibition brings to life timeless, historical innovations from the Muslim world – spanning the fields of engineering, medicine and design." he added.

Through interactive displays, guests will explore basic science principles that are often taken for granted, in such fields as optics, time-keeping, hydraulics, navigation, architecture and mathematics.

The exhibition highlights the contributions of scholars from a diverse region stretching from Spain through China during the 7th to 17th centuries. Visitors will discover how scholars from this region, of various faiths and cultures, preserved, nurtured, and advanced the world's knowledge in science and technology.

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One of the focal points of the exhibition is a 20-foot high replica of the 'Elephant Clock' - a visually striking early 13th century clock whose design fuses together elements from many cultures and is accompanied by a short film starring Oscar-winning actor Sir Ben Kingsley as Al-Jazari, inventor of the fabled clock. It was designed 800 years ago by Al-Jazari, a Muslim engineer in what is today southeast Turkey.

Another exhibit highlight is a 9th-century dark room model, now known as the Camera Obscura, which Ibn al-Haytham used to revolutionize our understanding of optics. The year 2011 is the 1,000 year anniversary of this invention - a forerunner of the modern-day camera. Other exhibits featured in this interactive exhibition include: A large 10-foot reproduction of Al-Idrisi's 12th-century world map. Model of Zheng He's Chinese junk ship - originally a 15th century wooden super structure over 325-feet long. Medical instruments from a thousand years ago, many of which are still used today. Other giants of innovation during the 1,000-year period that began in the 7th century were physician Al-Zahrawi, whose innovations shaped European surgery, and Fatima Al-Fihri, whose multi-subject institute of learning, with no gender restrictions, laid the foundations for the modern university.

Guests can also learn about parallel stories of invention from other cultures and civilizations, illustrated through a display of unique objects. These include devices used for weighing and measuring, surgical instruments, astronomical devices, intricately crafted ceramic pots and textiles.

A trip to 1001 Inventions is not complete without a visit to the ExploraStore where a range of educational products related to the exhibition from books to miniature elephant clocks can be purchased.



The project was created by the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilization (FSTC), an academic group based in Britain. The 1001 Inventions exhibition has already attracted more than a million visitors during its residencies in London, Istanbul and at the New York Hall of Science. It arrived hurriedly in Turkey after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan saw it in London and said he was eager to host it.

'1001 Inventions' is 2011 Museums and Heritage Excellence Awards winner which are considered the 'Oscars' of the exhibitions industry. The exhibition is on a global tour and is sponsored by Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives (ALJCI). ALJCI is the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of the ALJ Group, which is a Toyota automobiles distributor in 13 different countries.

The California Science Center is the West Coast's largest hands-on science center and also the most popular museum destination in Southern California, receiving more than 18 million visitors since opening in February 1998. An admission-free venue, the Science Center offers permanent and changing exhibits and related educational programming through several galleries.

1001 Inventions will be hosted at the California Science Center until December 31, 2011. The traveling exhibition will open at the National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC in 2012.

For more information about 1001 Inventions please visit [www.1001inventions.com](http://www.1001inventions.com).

