

1001 Inventions Exhibition opened to public in New York



President of ALJ Community Initiatives Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel and Margaret Honey, president and chief executive of Queens Hall, at the 1001 Inventions Exhibition in New York. (AN photo)

By ARAB NEWS

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JEDDAH: The 1001 Inventions Exhibition opened to public in New York, the third stop in its global tour, last week and the organizers of the exhibition hope for yet another successful run following its showing in London and Istanbul.

The exhibition opened in London early this year, and then in Istanbul in the middle of the same year. The 1001 Inventions Exhibition, organized in cooperation with ALJ Community Initiatives and the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilization (FSTC), proved a grand success in both the initial stops.

Visitors from different nationalities, cultures and age groups lined up to enjoy the outstanding exhibition, which discovers the Muslim scientific heritage and explores the role of Muslim world in the history of science, technology and arts, according to a press release.

The 1001 Inventions Exhibition takes the visitors on a tour through its seven divisions to see replicas of the astonishing inventions of the Middle Age. The exhibition discloses the huge impact of the Muslim civilization on today's life. Visitors start their tour with a documentary titled "1001 Inventions and Library of Secrets," which was specially prepared for the exhibition. Displayed on a 7-meter height screen, the 13-minute documentary accompanies a group of children on a journey in which they discover the period mistakenly referred as the Dark Ages.

Starring in the documentary is the Oscar-winning actor Sir Ben Kingsley, who plays the role of 18th century engineer, Al-Jazari. Through their journey in the documentary, the children discover a wealth of knowledge about the Muslim inventions in the period from the 7th to the 17th centuries.

Fadi Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel, president of ALJ Community Initiatives International, said the exhibition is seeking to highlight the importance of the scientific inventions made during a period extended to 1,000 years, from the 7th to the 17th centuries, a period full of Muslim inventions. The exhibition highlights the contributions of Muslim scientists in building the foundations of science and its impact on our current life.

In its Dec. 6 issue, the New York Times mentioned that the exhibition displays inventions of some of history's finest scientists and scholars that were predominantly from Muslim societies, extending from Spain to China. The newspaper interviewed Professor Salim Al-Hassani (chairman of FSTC and 1001 Inventions) and author of "1001 Inventions". In addition, the New York Times interviewed Margaret Honey, president and chief executive of Queens Hall, who said that Queens is the logical place for displaying the 1001 Inventions.

Early this year, the 1001 Inventions was displayed in London in cooperation with the Science Museum in London for five months, and was visited by 400,000 visitors. Later, the exhibition moved to Istanbul, where it was displayed for two months and was visited by 420,000 visitors. The exhibition encompasses dozens of inventions that add to the knowledge of visitors, in addition to interactive displays, electronic games and 3-Ds that related to several scientific fields, such as engineering, medicine, astronomy and other fields.

1001 Inventions will be in the US for 12 months and will tour several states. For more information, visit www.1001inventions.com.