

1001 Inventions marks first year with global expansion plans

London, March 7, 2007

1001 Inventions, the groundbreaking educational initiative exploring the Muslim contributions to science and technology, today marked its first anniversary by announcing ambitious global expansion plans including the publication of the second edition of its internationally acclaimed book.

1001 Inventions also includes a touring exhibition which has seen more than 180,000 visitors during its hugely successful first year in the UK.

The exhibition brings to life an often overlooked golden age of discovery and innovation from the 7th to the 17th centuries. Outstanding scholars from the Islamic world discovered and developed many everyday items that are taken for granted in the modern world, such as coffee, soap, clocks and surgical instruments.

Elizabeth Woodcock, Managing Director of 1001 Inventions, said the exhibition has a lot to teach people across the world.

“The enormous success of 1001 Inventions has exceeded all our expectations, and it’s with great pleasure that we announce our plans to go global,” she said.

Professor Salim Al-Hassani, Chairman of the Foundation for Science Technology and Civilisation, the founders of 1001 Inventions, said there is at present a widespread misconception that science and technology went into decline during the period known as the ‘Dark Ages’.

“1001 Inventions aims, through a process of education and learning, to challenge this myth and celebrate the fact that Muslim Civilisation was flourishing and contributed to the advancement of our society today.”

Yaqub Yousuf, CEO of Dubai-based International Holdings Group (IHG), a lead sponsor and supporter of 1001 Inventions, said the exhibition has the power to help break down stereotypes.

“International Holdings Group is keen to promote cross-cultural dialogue, and 1001 Inventions fits perfectly with that aim,” said Mr Yousuf.

“Over the past year 1001 Inventions has seen amazing success, and we are proud to be supporting its international expansion.”

The exhibition has already won widespread praise, with support from such high profile bodies as the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, British Home Office and the British Department for Trade and Industry.

1001 Inventions was launched in Manchester, England, in March, 2006, and its exhibition then moved to Cardiff, Wales in October the same year.

Notes to Editors

1001 Inventions is a non-religious and non-political exhibition.
For more details about the content of the exhibition, please refer to www.1001inventions.com

For more information contact Omar Van Der Lek at info@1001inventions.com or +971 4 329 2222

Photographs

1-5 are taken from the first venue of the 1001 Inventions exhibition at Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester (MSIM).
Photographs 6-10 are of the exhibition.

1. Professor Salim Al-Hassani*, Chairman of FSTC, and Afzal Khan, Lord Mayor of Manchester both holding up a replica of the 9th Century flying machine of Abbas Ibn Firnas.

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture1.jpg>

2. Professor Ekmellidin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Countries.

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture2.jpg>

3. School children watching a demonstration of how to use a 10th Century astrolabe.

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture3.jpg>

4. The Right Honourable Mike O'Brien, QC Solicitor General speaking at the MSIM launch on behalf of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture4.jpg>

5. A school girl using a 10th Century Astrolabe

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture5.jpg>

6. A girl with the Scribe clock exhibit. (350 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image01.jpg>

7. Boy looking at the interactive element for the World Zone pod. (970 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image02.jpg>

8. The Blood Circulation exhibit at the 1001 Inventions Exhibition. (900 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image03.jpg>

9. The animated manuscript exhibit on Celestial Sums in the Universe Zone. (930 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image04.jpg>

10. The al-Jazari scribe clock exhibit in the Home Zone. (630 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image05.jpg>

*Professor Salim Al-Hassani is emeritus professor of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering Department at UMIST and currently a residing professor at the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures, University of Manchester.