



PRESS RELEASE

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Rapturous reception for first 1001 Inventions Ramadan Lecture

Unique Dubai event during Holy month receives rave reviews



The first ever 1001 Inventions lecture to be held in Dubai during the Holy month of Ramadan attracted a wide range of international dignitaries, VIPs, academics, businesspeople and members of the media. It also received glowing reviews from the Press.

Photo: Professor Salim Al-Hassani

Held in Dubai at the Madinat Theatre, Souk Madinat Jumeirah, the 1001 Inventions Lecture featured headline-grabbing speeches by distinguished speakers from academia, the diplomatic arena, business and literature.

High-profile attendees included Hiroyasu Kobayashi, the Consul General of Japan to the U.A.E., Manar Al-Agha, the Cultural Attache to the U.A.E from the General Consulate of Palestine, plus regional heads of international investment banks and the region's leading academics.

Organised by Dubai-based Muslim Heritage Consulting, the lecture was the first of its kind of such calibre and cultural prominence to be held in the Emirate during the Holy month of Ramadan.

It was part of the groundbreaking 1001 Inventions project that also features a phenomenally-successful book, *1001 Inventions: Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World*, a touring educational interactive exhibition, teachers' pack, posters and conference.

The organisers - who provided the historical research that brought Muslim inventions back to life at Dubai's Ibn Battuta Mall - have championed similar cross-cultural events in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Keynote speaker Professor Salim Al-Hassani, Chairman of the Manchester, U.K.-based Foundation for Science, Civilisation and Technology, gave a riveting performance as he revealed the 1000 'missing years' of Muslim pioneers.



Uncovering innovations and inventions in the fields of healthcare, education, food production, engineering and astronomy, Professor Al-Hassani held the audience in rapt attention as he exposed the ‘amnesia’ in the Western world’s historical account of the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the beginning of the European Renaissance.

He said: “We are told that nothing happened between the Roman Empire and the Renaissance. How can we accept that humanity went to sleep for that long?”

The Gulf’s leading, English-language daily, *Gulf News* summed up the lecture and the whole 1001 Inventions initiative as an “ambitious project...aims to contest the very notion of a period that is known in the West as the Dark Ages.”

Emirates Today, a popular daily tabloid newspaper produced in Dubai, produced a major feature article based upon the lecture’s revelations. Hailing 1001 Inventions and Professor Al-Hassani’s work, *Emirates Today* said: “Alongside a team of experts from many fields, he has helped to produce one of the most talked about exhibitions and history books in the world.”

The newspaper quoted the professor as saying: “This is the most strategic project of our time – as Muslims we have tried religion and we have tried politics to make ourselves heard, but this is the best way.”

Other speakers at the lecture included John Hawkins, the Consul-General of the United Kingdom to the U.A.E., David Macauley, CEO of the Stem Cell Foundation in the U.K., Elizabeth Woodcock, co-editor of the book *1001 Inventions* and Ali Hilal, manager of the biotechnology department at International Holdings Group (I.H.G.), the lecture’s sponsor.

Editors’ Note:

‘Discover the Muslim Heritage in our World’ was held at 9pm on Tuesday, October 17 at the Madinat Theatre, Souk Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai.

After a phenomenally-successful launch of the *1001 Inventions* exhibition at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, U.K. earlier this year, *1001 Inventions: Discover the Muslim Heritage in our World* is set to tour over 20 nations in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and Australasia.

It continued its U.K. tour at the National Museum Cardiff on October 24th 2006, with an official opening event of selected VIPs and local community on October 26th that celebrated the arrival of the exhibition.

For further information contact Richard Brown on 04 329 2421 or richard@1001Inventions.com