

## Turkish Prime Minister visits London's Science Museum

**16 March 2010:** The Turkish Prime Minister visited a London exhibition featuring many scientific achievements Western Europe inherited from Turks and Ottomans, during his official visit to the UK today. The *1001 Inventions* gallery at the country's premier Science Museum, which has already attracted more than 80,000 visitors in its first eight weeks, welcomed its most senior VIP guest when Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visited on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2010.

Mr. Erdoğan, and his delegation of Turkish government Ministers, came to London to meet the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and senior politicians. During his visit also took a tour of the recently unveiled exhibition, subtitled *Discover The Muslim Heritage In Our World*. Launched on the 21<sup>st</sup> January, the landmark *1001 Inventions* exhibition highlights the scientific heritage the world has inherited from Muslim civilisation. The venue has been inundated with visitors and the Museum's Director has described their latest attraction as a "blockbuster".

*1001 Inventions: Discover The Muslim Heritage in Our World* is a free exhibition, sponsored by the British charity Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation, which traces the forgotten story of a thousand years of science from the Muslim world from the 7<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It has proved so popular that its short run at the South Kensington venue has now been extended until the June 2010, after which it will go on a five year tour of major cities across the globe.

During his visit the Prime Minister and Mrs. Erdoğan spent 30 minutes on a tour of the gallery, guided by Chairman and Founder of *1001 Inventions* Professor Salim Al-Hassani and philanthropist Fady Jameel. The exhibition highlights many social, scientific and technical achievements that are credited to the Muslim world, including the Turkish region, whilst also celebrating the scientific heritage of many other cultures.

Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation, Fady Jameel commented that "This exhibition features a diverse range of exhibits, interactive displays and dramatisation – all of which acknowledge the Muslim world's contribution to many modern inventions spanning fields such as engineering, medicine and architecture. Through our sponsorship of *1001 Inventions* we aim to provide the role models that will inspire generations of young people, of many diverse backgrounds, to explore the possibility of becoming science and technology entrepreneurs."

Professor Salim TS Al-Hassani, Chairman of *1001 Inventions*, explained the significance to Turkish history. "Our gallery showcases dozens of exhibits from the history of Muslim civilisation. For example, our visitors will discover that Turkey is responsible for giving the world immunisation, suction pumps, rocket powered flight and the oldest surviving detailed map of the Americas. The Turkish region was also home to engineering geniuses like Al-Jazari and Taqi al-Din, whose machines and mechanisms are key in plants and agricultural industries and master architects like Sinan whose influence can be seen throughout the capitals of Europe."

He continued: "Our aim is to improve mainstream understanding of Muslim contribution to arts, science, technology and the development of modern civilisation and this interactive exhibition does this by bringing to a wider audience eye-opening facts and astounding stories that impact upon us in today's modern world". Some of these include:

- The world's first rocket powered flight, carried out by Lagari Hasan Celebi, who soared above Istanbul's Bosphorus strait in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- A five-metre high recreation of the 'Elephant Clock' produced in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by master engineer Al-Jazari in what is now southern Turkey.
- The story of inoculation and immunization, a concept imported from Turkey.

- How the architecture of landmark buildings across Europe was inspired by architects like Sinan of Turkey.
- Reproduction of the pistons-crank systems and suction pumps used by engineering pioneers like Taqi Al-Din and Al-Jazari.
- Hezarfen Ahmed Çelebi, the first person to successfully fly between two continents in a glider.
- Şerefeddin Sabuncuoğlu, who invented numerous surgical instruments and wrote one of the first illustrated handbooks on surgery.
- How Ottoman administrators made important advances in the field of town planning.
- Spa treatments developed in Turkish Hammams which are now widely practiced around the world.
- How the Turkish language inspired many English words (like “Yogurt”, “Crimson” and “Kiosk”).

The *1001 Inventions* exhibition runs from 21<sup>st</sup> January until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London. Further information about the exhibition is available at the official website [www.1001inventions.com](http://www.1001inventions.com).

### **Notes to editors**

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Official Pictures are available at [www.1001inventions.com/media](http://www.1001inventions.com/media)

### **About Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation**

The Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation is a British charity (registration no. 1130939), established in February 2009 by Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel, the President of Abdul Latif Jameel Co Ltd, the largest independent Toyota distributor in the World and with distributorships in Turkey (ALJ Toyota) and many other countries including Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, China, Egypt, Monaco, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, Syria and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation is the exclusive sponsor of the 1001 Inventions exhibition and through this relationship it aims to improve mainstream understanding of Muslim contribution to arts, science and the development of modern civilisation. This is part of its overriding aim to support sustainable poverty relief, education, economic development, the arts and social/financial mobility through numerous projects.

Mr. Fady Jameel, the eldest son of Engineer Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel, is President of the Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation.

### **About 1001 Inventions**

1001 Inventions is a global educational initiative that promotes awareness of a thousand years of scientific and cultural achievements from Muslim civilisation from the 7<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and how those contributions helped build the foundations of our modern world.

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 that lived in Muslim civilisation.

Launched in the United Kingdom in March 2006, 1001 Inventions was created by the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation (FSTC), a British based non-profit, non-religious and academic organization. Working with leading academics from around the world, FSTC engages with the public

through educational media in order to highlight the shared cultural and technological inheritance of humanity, in order to improve social cohesion.