

ATTARIK-EXPO: A successful Moroccan initiative that brings open science closer to the general public

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Nowadays, the importance of developing scientific culture among young people and the general public is growing. the creation of places for the conservation, preservation and presentation of scientific collections is becoming an important issue for countries because these museum structures protect their scientific heritage, which represents their own historical wealth which distinguishes them from other cultures.

The natural History Museum represents a crossroads for sharing information, questions and links between the public and scientists. the role of these structures is scientific research and dissemination of knowledge by adapting the classic techniques of museology and with a scientific mediation adapted to different categories of public: children, young students, academics.

Morocco has a unique geological heritage, such as the richest collection of meteorites in the world after Antarctica. this collection has contributed greatly to the understanding the history of the universe through its unprecedented geochemical results (ex: The Martian meteorite Tissint)

Each place in this country has a different geological history from another place engraved in its rocks, fossils and specimens. The problem is the scarcity of museum spaces that preserve and present to the public this rich heritage.

The importance of conservation, dissemination of science, and valorization of geohéritage has become paramount. In Morocco, the ATTARIK FOUNDATION has been able to achieve this objective by implementing numerous actions, initiatives and projects that aim at promoting science and scientific mediation to the public, especially planetary science and meteorites.

Since its creation in 2019, the ATTARIK FOUNDATION has been able to carry out several projects such as the creation of Geotouristic circuits in several regions in Morocco, the organization of various workshops on the identification of meteorites for schools in the kingdom, the

publication of books with simplified scientific explanations for children and the general public (tales, booklets, leaflets . . .). Without forgetting the launch of the first temporary exhibition museum in Morocco under the name "Meteorites: Messenger from the sky", dedicated to presenting meteorites and various objects related to planetary sciences.

ATTARIK Foundation is an autonomous and non-profit association held in Hassan II University of Casablanca, Ain Chock Faculty, Morocco.

