

ATTARIK Foundation: A Moroccan initiative for the promotion of Meteoritics and Planetary Science in Morocco and abroad

HASNAA CHENNAOUI AOUJJEHANE^{1,2}, SOUKAINA ARIF^{1,2}, DAVID BARATOUX³, PIERRE ROCHETTE⁴, LUDOVIC FERRIERE⁵, FATIMAEZZAHRA JADID⁶, EL MEHDI EL HACHEMI⁶, LARBI ZENNOURI⁶, ELY CHEIKH OULD MOHAMED NAVIEE^{1,2}, OMAR BERRADA⁷ AND MOHAMED AOUJJEHANE⁸

¹Hassan II University of Casablanca Faculty of Science Ain Chock

²ATTARIK Foundation for Meteoritics and Planetary Science

³Institut de Recherche pour le Développement

⁴Aix-Marseille Université

⁵Natural History Museum Vienna

⁶Hassan II University of Casablanca Faculty of Sciences Ain Chock

⁷Signature Yasmine

⁸Agrokit

Presenting Author: chennaoui_h@yahoo.fr

The ATTARIK Foundation is an NGO dedicated to promotion of Meteoritics and Planetary Science in Morocco, the Middle East, and African countries. It has been developing scientific research, outreach, and communication since its creation in 2019 by a team of internationally renowned researchers and a group of enthusiasts [1, 2]. The creation of ATTARIK Foundation is the result of a long process that began in Morocco in 2000 by building a strategy based on the development of scientific research, new curricula, the training of master and PhD students and communication. The launch of ATTARIK Foundation benefited from previous collaborations and links with scientific institutions, networks, and laboratories all over the world. ATTARIK Foundation has four important objectives: 1-the promotion of scientific research on Meteoritics and Planetary Science 2- the valorisation and preservation of the rich Moroccan geoheritage 3- the dissemination of science 4- the economic and social development of territories by geotourism and astrotourism activities. ATTARIK contributed to the visibility of African scientists via financial contributions for students' scholarships, publications, presentations in national and international conferences, and PhD defenses, thanks to the supports of its members, partners and sponsors. ATTARIK Foundation contributes to the national effort of regulation of geoheritage in Morocco that succeeded on implementing a decree dedicated to fossils, minerals, and meteorites. One important action is the exhibit-museum "Meteorites messengers of sky" aiming to dissemination of science as well as promoting Moroccan geoheritage. This concept is original and unique as it is welcomed by commercial malls in Casablanca [3, 4]. The dissemination of scientific knowledge and making it available to the public in the exhibit and during practical workshops has

become a very important skill for mediators (mostly PhD students), it allows them to create communication and exchange links on a scientific subject with the public in order to have a wide diffusion of knowledge on a precise scientific topics.

[1] Chennaoui Aoudjehane et al. (2022) - Europlanet Science Congress

[3] Arif & Chennaoui Aoudjehane (2022) - MetSoc Meeting

[4] Arif et al. (2023) - Goldschmidt 2023