

808-2008: Project of Celebrating the

**1200th anniversary of the
Rising of Moroccan Kingdom
and the Foundation of Fez city**

**Initiative presentation:
from the idea to the project**



Agenda

1. Introduction and explanation of project basics:

2. Concepts Identification:

- The concept
- Executive team
- Samples of manifestations
- Partnerships

3. Conclusion and outcomes



Introduction and explanation of project basics

**In 1981, the UNESCO has declared Fez a city
of humanitarian heritage as
recommended by the international sites
and monuments council.
(ICOMOS ref World heritage list n°170)**

**The document quotes :
«this capital was founded in year 192H (808G)
by Idriss II... »**



ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

LISTE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

WORLD HERITAGE LIST N° 170

A) IDENTIFICATION

Bien proposé: Médina de Fès

Lieu: Fès

Pays partie: Maroc

Date: 31 Décembre 1980

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination: The Medina of Fez

Location: Fez

State party: Morocco

Date: December 31, 1980

B) RECOMMANDATION DE L'ICOMOS

Que le bien culturel proposé soit inscrit sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial.

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed cultural property be included on the World Heritage List.

C) JUSTIFICATION

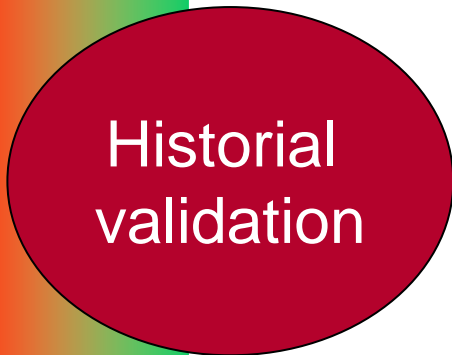
La Médina de Fès conserve, dans un parcellaire ancien à haute densité monumentale, le souvenir de la capitale fondée en 192 de l'Hégire (808) par Idriss II. La ville primitive comptait deux noyaux distincts: d'un côté, le quartier des Andalous, population qui a fui les sarrasins Omeyyades de Cordoue et qui vint s'installer définitivement sur la rive droite de la Fès; de l'autre, le quartier des Kairouanais, émigrés de Kairouan au 11e siècle qui choisirent la rive gauche pour développer leurs activités.

En dépit de la destruction d'une bonne partie de la ville par les Almoravides, la dynastie qui prit le pouvoir au 11e siècle, les deux quartiers, resserrés autour de deux monuments majeurs, la Jamaa El Andalous (mosquée des Andalous) et la mosquée El Karouiyne, conservèrent intacte leur identité dans la ville ancienne de Fès El Bali.

The Medina of Fez preserves in its old, densely monumental, parcelling the memory of the capital founded in 192 of the Hégira (808) by Idriss II. The primitive city is composed of two distinct centers: one is the quarter of the Andalous, a population which fled the Omeyyade masters of Cordoba and who came to settle definitively on the right bank of the Fez; the other, the quarter of the Quarawiyia, a people emigrated from Kairouan in the 11th century, who chose the left bank to develop their activities.

Despite the destruction of a good part of the city by the Almoravides, the dynasty which took over power in the 11th century, the two quarters grouped around two major monuments, the Jama El Andalous (the mosque of the Andalusians) and the mosque of El Karouiyne, preserve their identities intact in the old city of Fez El Bali.

In the 13th century, after the Marinid



Introduction and explanation of project basics



808-2008: 1200 years passed since Moulay Idriss the 2nd built the city of Fes, the capital of the Idrissid dynasty.

Dr Abdelhadi TAZI quoted in his book «Qaraouiyyine History», Part 1, Page 44-45 the exact date of this event is January 4th, 808.

As many other cities (Granada, Cordoba and Cairo), Fez didn't stop progress and glimpse to all over the world since that date. Many thinkers were born in Fez and lived there.

تكون من آل البيت الاقربين، وأن تضيفي عليها هذه النسبة من قبسها وانوارها، وفيضها وأسرارها^(١٣). لقد ورد
ادريس غداة غرة شهر ربيع الاول من سنة اثنين وتسعين ومئة (٤ يناير ٨٠٨ م) على عين المكان ليختط شوارع
العاصمة وأبوابها وجسورها.. وقدموا للإمام الشاب فأساً بديعة مصنوعة من ذهب وفضة ليفتح بها أعمال التشييد

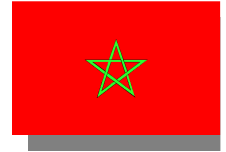


Introduction and explanation of project basics

This 1200th anniversary represents a particular interest, in the national and international present context:

Humanity has never experienced the need of finding ways of **dialogue** between people and civilizations like today. The advent of this event is an occasion to re-link this necessary dialogue.

We believe that it is necessary to make this date an occasion to think and consider the role of cultural heritage in the process of **evolution** that is taking place in Morocco, and how this universal heritage is still **alive** and contributing to the humanity.



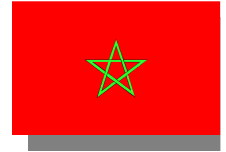
Significances

National: We are in the eve of the 1200 anniversary of the Fez establishment which is a very important moment in our National History. It's the beginning of a successful synthesis between the Amazigh roots and the additional quality of the Arab. These two components form the basis of the strong and united Moroccan personality from which the Idrissi State emerged.

International: Fez is a world-wide cultural heritage whose radiation is universal just like Ibn Khaldoun, Maimonide or Mozart. Jewish, Christian and Muslim culture has lived in peace and tolerance. Therefore the whole world has the right to adopt the celebration of its 1200th birthday.

Such event should not go unnoticed,
otherwise we have to wait another century to attend such event!

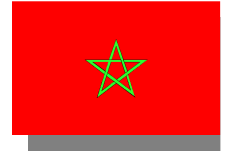
National context



- Morocco is witnessing a deep political, economical and social mutations that strengthen the rightness, law and building of the institutional state.
- Establishment of economical and social voluntary policy, National Human Development Initiative, Emergence Industry Plan, Tourism 2010 vision, Tangier harbor, Housing policy, establishment of basic infrastructures ...
 - Economical openness, various reforms.
- Report of 50 years of human development, 2025 perspectives.

• Fez has a regional tourist development plan “2005-2015”, and did host the international tourism forum at the end of April 2007.

The celebration of this event will be a supporting factor that strengthen the on going mutations.
It will remind us that the cultural basis for these mutations is deep rooted in the history.



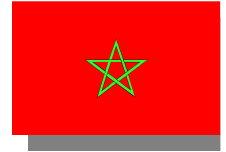
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- The concept
- Handling staff,
- Samples of manifestations
- Partnerships,

3. Conclusion and outcomes



Concept

A series of big manifestations from various fields and specializations with a strong long term **impact** to be organized **during the year 2008** in **all Moroccan regions** and some **international capitals**,

These manifestations constitute a celebration organized by a country that on trust it builds its future, and consolidates its anchorage in the modern world while being proud of its monarchy, institutions and different cultural components: Amazigh, Arabic, Andalusia, African and European.

The radiation of Morocco on the world countries will be of more strength.

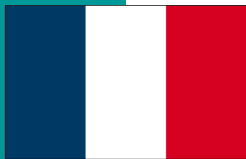


Ambition level

At this moment where the current international order Values the cultural resources of each nation, our initiatives aim to seize this Opportunity to achieve:

The biggest communication process with the world to introduce Morocco and improve its image.

Similar events



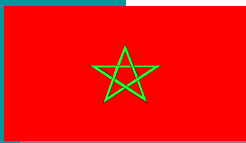
1989

Bicentenary of French revolution



1992

500 anniversary of Christopher Columbus trip



2005



50th anniversary of Morocco independence



2007



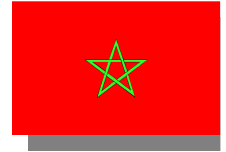
50th anniversary of Rome treaty



2008



400 anniversary of Quebec city



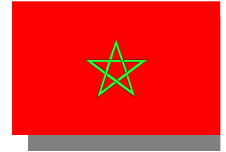
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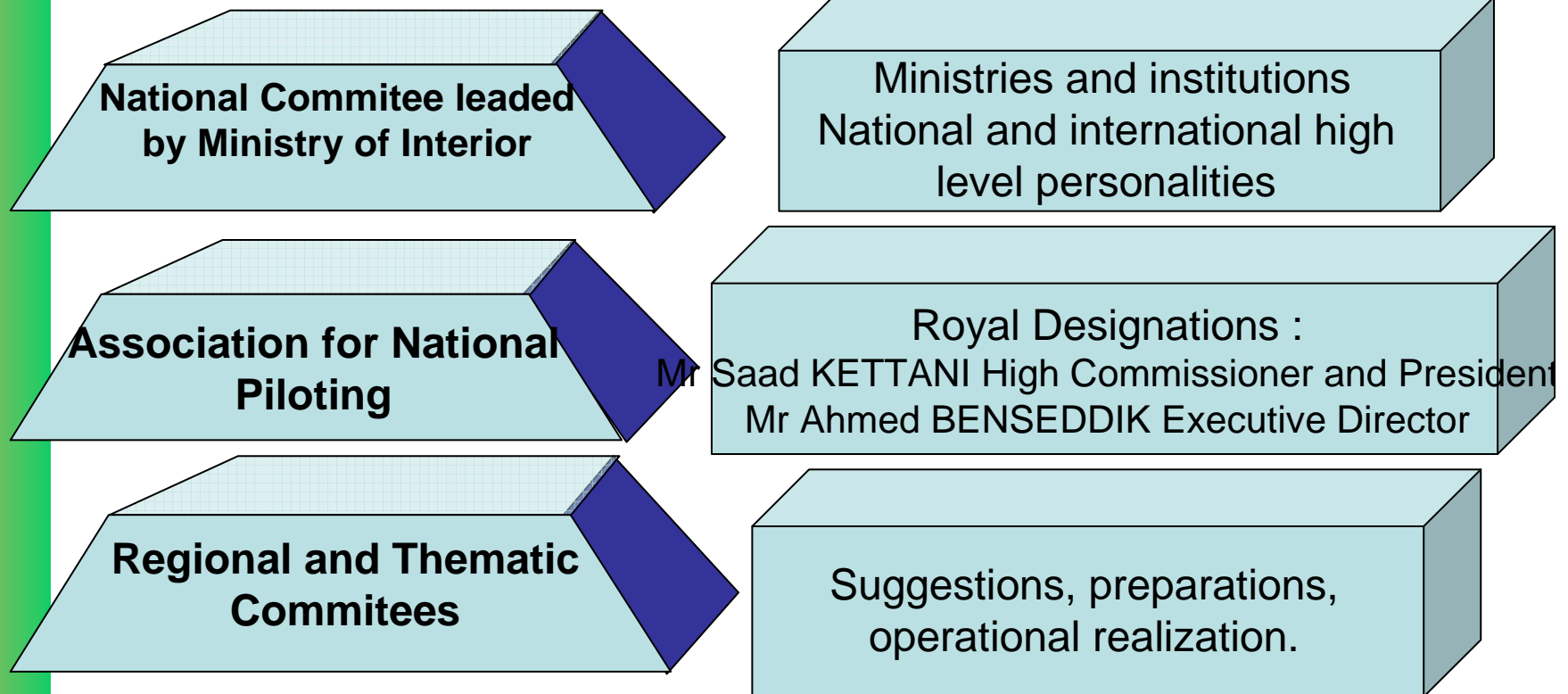
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Handling Staff

Good preparation for this occasion needs **quick** setting of a good organizational structure to manage the project including human, material and financial resources, therefore we propose the following:





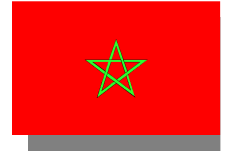
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Samples of Manifestations

scientific & academic

-Prize for researches on Moroccan history,

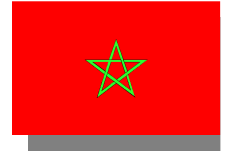
Civil & environmental

-Students of each elementary and secondary school plant 12 trees for the future in order to celebrate the 12 centuries of history.

Arts and urbanism

-International competition inviting artists (paintings, sculpture, musicians) to immortalize this event,

-Build a monument in each city: prize to be given to the best creative city



Samples of Manifestations

Sport activities

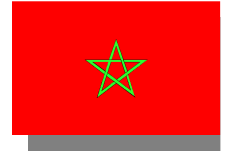
-Creation of the 12 centuries cup with participation of international stars,

Culture and tourism

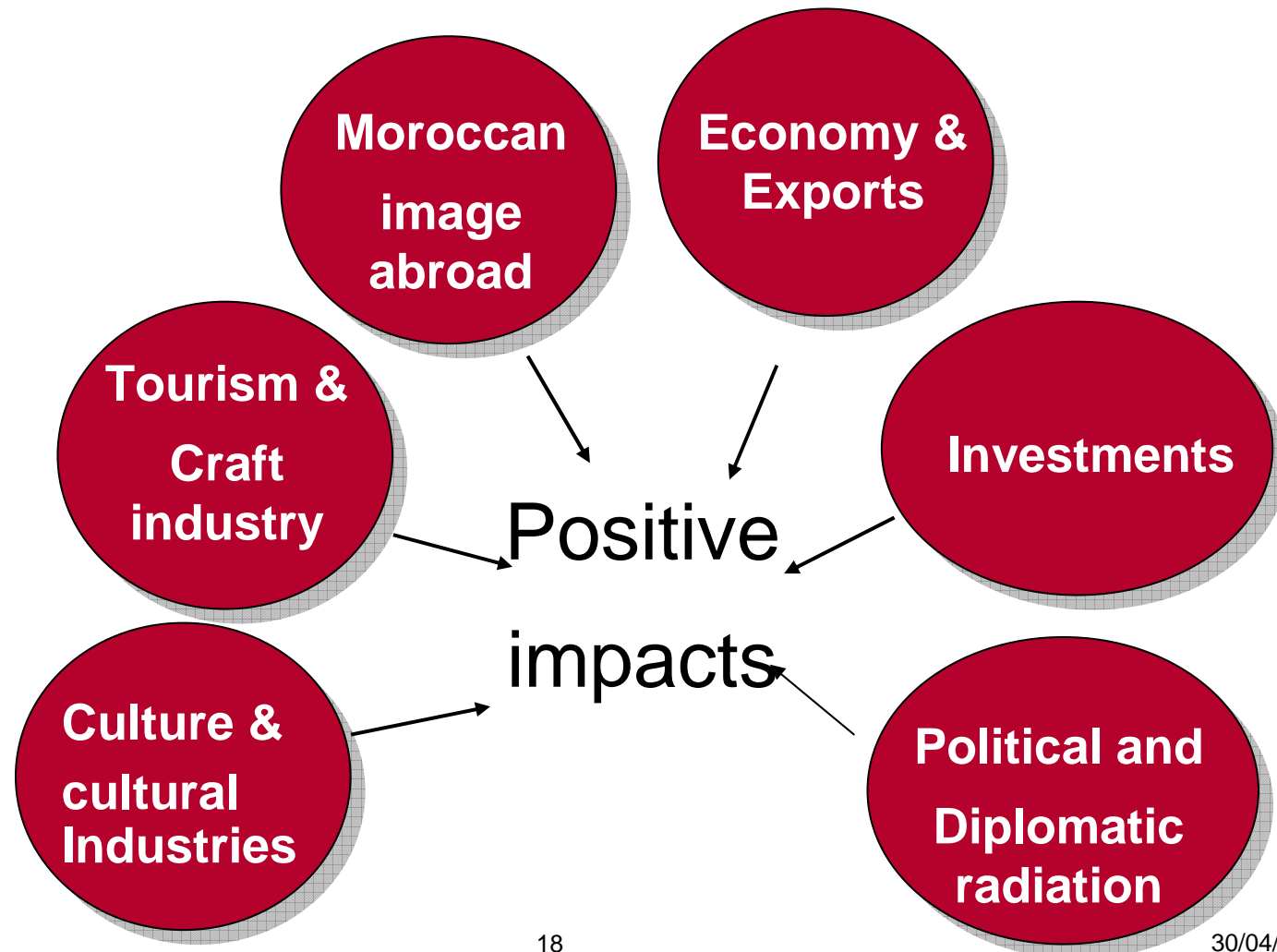
-Creation of a label of events on products, public buildings and Moroccan symbols: (planes, stamps, coins, stamps...) the effects of this occasion should appear on all different events,

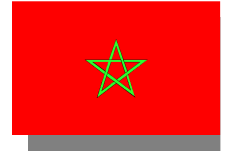
Some thematic work-groups will be constituted for elaborating detailed propositions.

Potential of creativity is very large



Expected impacts on Morocco from each of the following domains are numerous:





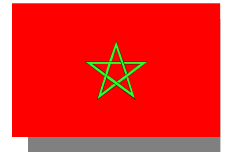
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Potential partners

International



International media

Tourism industry

Communication & entertainment Industry

National

Government, Public institutions

Local groups

Associations, NGO, universities

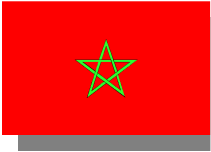
Public bodies

Private groups, different sponsors

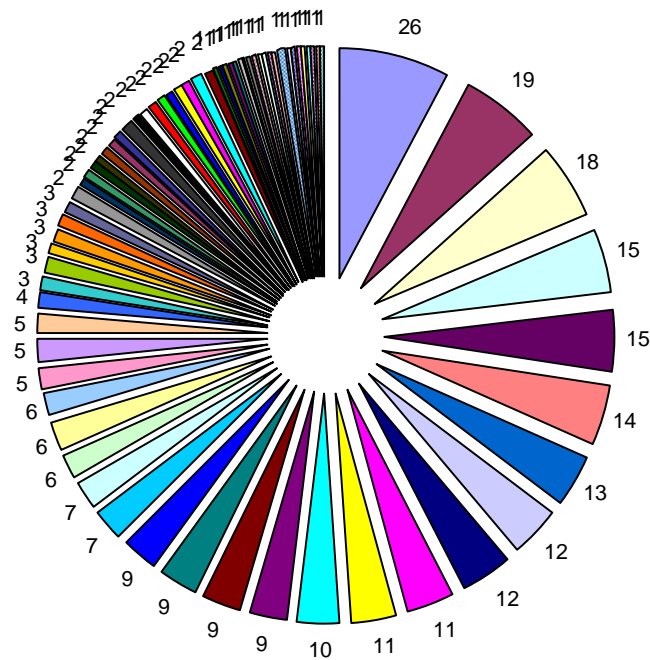


Letter of Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, GM of Unesco to
the National committees of Unesco:
(ref: DG/7/06/107 - 06 Sept. 2006)

«celebration means giving importance to personalities, works and remarkable events that contributed to the mutual enrichment of cultures and facilitated the international comprehension, reconciliation and peace between people. That what makes UNESCO participates in immortalizing historical events and celebrates eminent personalities recognized by states members in order to give them a world-wide range...».



**1996-2007 : L'UNESCO A PARTICIPE A 339 ANNIVERSAIRES
DANS 71 PAYS, DONT 12 TOTALISENT 52% (Maroc:3)**



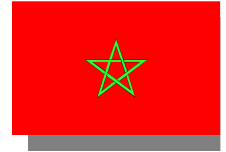
- Fédération de Russie
- France
- République tchèque
- Roumanie
- Ukraine
- Ouzbékistan
- Italie
- Allemagne
- Cuba
- Bulgarie
- Kazakhstan
- Pologne

Morocco

1998 : 800^{ème} death of philosopher Averroès

2004 : 700^{ème} birthday of Ibn Batouta

2006 : 600^{ème} death of Ibn Khaldoun



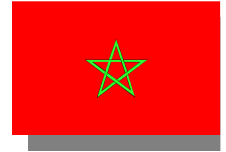
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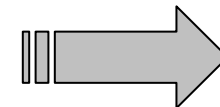
CONCLUSION

Throughout this celebration, Morocco is a country that has personality, history and a contribution to the human civilization. It's a country that is proud of all these features and will continue to be endowed with.

Capitalize

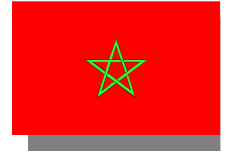
Consolidate

Mobilize





اللهم إني تعلم أني ما ارتكبت بينك له
المدينة مباحة ولا معاخرتك ولا رياء ولا
سمعة ولا تكابرك. وإنما ارتكبت أن تعبد بها
وتبلى بها كتابك وتقام بها عدا ولا وشرائع
دينك وسنة نبيك ما بعيت في الدنيا.
اللهم وفق سكانها وفقها لها للخير
واكفهم علبه واجمهم مؤونة اكدائهم
والرزق عليهم الرزاق وانعمك كهم سيف
البعنة والشفاق إني علم كل شيء. وكبير
السلام المدرس الزهر
193 هـ . 508 م



Tahar Ben Jelloun

A l'attention de M. Ahmed Benseddik

Paris 17 avril 2007

Cher ami,

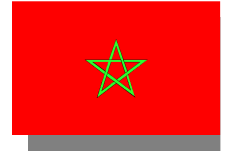
Je vous remercie d'avoir attiré mon attention sur le projet de la célébration de la fondation de Fès.

En tant que natif de cette médina, laquelle parcourt mes romans et fait le siège de ma mémoire, je ne pourrai qu'applaudir absolument à cette initiative qui pourrait être une occasion magnifique pour mettre en valeur ce patrimoine, cette histoire et redonner au Maroc nouveau, le Maroc de la modernité, de nouvelles opportunités pour qu'il soit à la pointe de cette autre modernité consistant à célébrer et mettre en lumière son authenticité, son originalité.

Surtout en cette époque de confusion, de violence absurde et d'images négatives qui font le tour des télévisions du monde.

Le Maroc est avant tout un enracinement dans sa culture la plus fondamentale, justement celle qui a fondé sa civilisation et l'a consolidée. Cet enracinement est un rappel aux nouvelles générations, dont certains éléments sont dans la perte des repères et du sens, un rappel qui donnera un éclairage plus général et plus précis de notre richesse et notre complexité, architecturale, urbanistique et aussi universitaire.

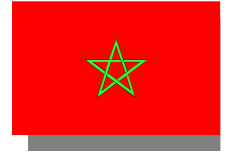




C'est dans ce sens que j'appuie l'initiative que vous vous proposez de présenter aux plus hautes autorités de l'Etat. J'espère que la ville de Fès, ce creuset de rencontres et de débats, cette place où se sont forgées des valeurs d'humanisme dans le contexte d'un islam bien compris, apaisé et constructeur, aura sa saison pour exister de nouveau et surtout pour que le monde qui rêve de cette ville exceptionnelle puisse avoir l'occasion de lui rendre visite et de mieux la connaître et par là mieux faire connaissance du Maroc nouveau, celui que Sa Majesté Mohamed VI mène vers la modernité, vers l'intelligence et la raison.

Bien amicalement à vous

Tahar Ben Jelloun .



Site Web :

www.maroc1200.org

Contact : Info@maroc1200.org