

Abu Dhabi's inaugural science fest opens

BY A STAFF REPORTER

November 19, 2011

ABU DHABI: Lt. General Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, deputy prime minister and minister of interior, opened on Friday the inaugural Abu Dhabi Science Festival.

The new festival, which will continue until Nov.26, aims to spark curious minds in science, technology and innovation (STI).

Nearly 15,000 students from Grades 1 to 9 from 174 schools (110 students from public schools, 64 students from private schools) will be participating in the upcoming event.

The 9-day event will encompass over 150 of informal science learning experiences, including interactive exhibits, workshops and shows. The festival will cover different fields of STI including robotics, aeronautics, physics, biology, chemistry and archaeology, with the experiences designed to excite young people about the wonders and fun of science and technology whilst stimulating their inquisitive learning skills.

In organising this city-wide festival, the Abu Dhabi Technology Development Committee (TDC) is collaborating with the Abu Dhabi Education Council (Adec) as well as the Edinburgh International Science Festival (EISF) and 1001 Inventions.

As part of the festival's unique concept, EISF's experts will train hundreds of higher education students to become 'Science Communicators' and help visitors make the most of every experience and answer every curious question.

Complementing the festival's programme as an anchor attraction, 1001 Inventions, the award-winning international touring exhibition, will have its Middle East debut in Abu Dhabi. Inspiring new generations in the Arab world, the exhibition brings to life a 1,000 years of exceptional advances in science and technology made by men and women in Muslim civilisation.