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Morocco Celebrates Earth Day Every Day

As COP 22 President, North African Country Continues Pushing Climate Action

Washington, DC, April 22, 2017, Moroccan American Center for Policy (MACP) — Morocco has long been a climate advocate, becoming the first African and Arab country to host a Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP) in 2001. In November 2016, the country—dubbed a “perfect place for the world’s biggest climate change conference,” according to Quartz—again hosted world leaders in Marrakesh for COP 22, this time with the task of implementing the historic Paris Agreement from the year before.

Morocco’s King Mohammed VI urged participants at COP 22 to move beyond promises to “tangible initiatives and practical steps,” and to respect and support the priorities and resources of developing countries.

“Holding this conference in Africa,” he said, “is an incentive for us to give priority to tackling the adverse repercussions of climate change, which are growing worse and worse in the countries of the South and in insular states whose very existence is in jeopardy.”

Since November, Morocco has ensured that the climate action agenda moves forward as COP 22 President, hosting a number of events and workshops with members of Moroccan civil society as well as international stakeholders on capacity building, sustainable industrial areas, and more. Morocco sent a delegation to the World Bank/International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings in Washington, DC this month to address issues of climate finance, and is working closely with the incoming Fiji COP 23 Presidency in advance of the Bonn Climate Change Conference in May.

Meanwhile, Morocco continues leading the way on sustainability and renewable energy at home:

1. **Morocco has enshrined environmentalism in its governing documents.** Article 31 of the country’s 2011 Constitution guarantees citizens’ right to “the access of water and to a healthy environment”; while Articles 71 and 152 address the government’s responsibility for environmental protection and oversight.
2. **Morocco has set ambitious energy goals.** Morocco has committed to generating 42% of the country’s energy needs from renewable sources by 2020, and 52% by 2030.
3. **Morocco is a world leader in solar energy production.** The country’s NOOR solar power complex is the largest in the world – so large it is visible from space; and by completion, will be capable of producing 2,000 megawatts of energy. In addition, Morocco currently maintains 13 wind farms and plans to build at least six more before 2020, capable of producing a total of 2,000 megawatts of energy.
4. **Morocco is serious about waste reduction.** The Moroccan Parliament signed a bill into law on July 1, 2016 banning the use, production, or import of plastic bags; and Rabat hosts an active recycling and waste-management center that employs disadvantaged people to sort through waste for reusable, recyclable and saleable material.
5. **Morocco understands the importance of raising public awareness on climate change issues.** That’s why Morocco’s Association of Teachers of Life and Earth Sciences works with the Ministry of Education to promote environmental awareness at centers in 18 different towns and cities throughout Morocco.

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Contact: Jordana Merran, 202:470.2049

The Moroccan American Center for Policy (MACP) is a non-profit organization whose principal mission is to inform opinion makers, government officials, and interested publics in the United States about political and social developments in Morocco and the role being played by the Kingdom of Morocco in broader strategic developments in North Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East.

This material is distributed by the Moroccan American Center for Policy on behalf of the Government of Morocco. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

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Jordana Merran

From: Moroccan American Center for Policy [jmerran@moroccanamericancenter.com]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Jordana Merran
Subject: Earth Day, the Moroccan Scholar who Saved Aristotle, and More

Morocco on the Move

**Earth Day, the Moroccan Scholar who Saved
Aristotle, and More**



Photo: Wikipedia Commons.

Morocco returning to the African Union is "in any assessment, a win-win-win: for Morocco, to be back in the fold, where it can exercise its geopolitical, economic and reform-minded influence in multiple sectors; for Africa, to be able to draw on Morocco's expertise, capabilities and willingness to share a common vision for Africa's future; and for the United States, to have yet another opportunity to

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benefit from our shared interests in and commitment to effectively addressing security and stability challenges, regionally and on the continent."

- Former US Ambassador Edward M. Gabriel in the Ambassadors Review

Happy (Belated) Birthday to the Moroccan Scholar who Saved Aristotle

By Andrew Lubrano

Hanging in the Vatican, Raphael's fresco "The School of Athens" depicts a highly anachronistic meeting of some of the greatest thinkers in human history. Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates walk through a crowd that includes a few 15th century Renaissance figures alongside ancient Greek philosophers like Archimedes and Euclid.

Seated on the left side of the fresco is a man whose style of dress starkly stands out amidst the togas and flowing robes of the Greeks. This man appears to be staring over the shoulder of Pythagoras, seemingly intensely interested in whatever the legendary Greek mathematicians is working on.

He is neither a Greek philosopher, nor one of Raphael's Renaissance contemporaries. To Raphael and the

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rest of the West he was known as Averroes, the Muslim physician and philosopher famous for preserving and commenting on the works of Aristotle and Plato that were thought lost during the so-called "Dark Ages."

However, for the Almoravid and Almohad Caliphs of 12th century Morocco, he was known as Ibn Rushd, just one of the many brilliant scholars of Islam, science, and philosophy that emerged during the Middle Ages.

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Moroccan American Center, 1220 L St NW, Suite 411, Washington, DC 20005

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