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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Message from Ms Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

on the occasion of the 27th Khwarizmi International Festival

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 1 March 2014

I am pleased to send this message of support to the 27th *Khwarizmi International Festival*, and I wish to thank the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology and the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO for this initiative.

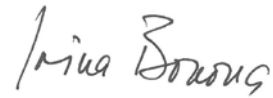
This festival is named in honour of the pioneering Persian scientist, Muhammad ibn-Musa al-Khwarizmi, who developed the concept of the algorithm in mathematics and contributed significantly to the fields of algebra, trigonometry, astronomy, geography and cartography. His research synthesized existing knowledge of these fields from Greece and other sources and led to the adoption of “zero” from India, as well as the popularization of Arabic numerals in mathematics.

In this spirit of creativity and dialogue, the *Khwarizmi International Festival* provides a platform to identify and support ground-breaking research in science and technology. This is important today, at a time of global change, when all countries are seeking new sources of dynamism.

To these ends, UNESCO is working with countries across the world to strengthen national science, technology and innovation systems as essential components for poverty eradication and inclusive, sustainable development. Through the integration of science, technology and innovation into national development plans, we are acting to nurture innovation ecosystems, including through support to science parks and technology business incubators. Our goal is to promote grassroots innovation, to support meaningful solutions to local needs, reflecting also traditional knowledge systems.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a leading partner for UNESCO in this field, embodied also in the *Regional Centre for the Development of Science Park and Technology Incubator*, based in Isfahan, a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

The *Khwarizmi International Festival* is, indeed, a festival for science, technology and innovation, to assess new research and reward notable advances. I wish to thank all participants for sharing their passion for innovation for the good of all. In the spirit of the great Muhammad ibn-Musa al-Khwarizmi, I wish you a productive and stimulating festival.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Irina Bokova' in a cursive style.

Irina Bokova