**Press Release**

**Marrakech to host the open international robotics competition FIRST® LEGO® League for the 2023 edition.**

*An edition that promises to be very "energetic" with 66 teams coming to compete in Morocco in a great event that is held for the first time in the Kingdom.*

**Marrakech, May 15, 2023 - Under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the LOOP For Science & Technology Association is organizing the FIRST® LEGO® League Open International Morocco 2023 robotics competition from May 18th to May 21st, 2023.**

The international robotics competition will be held for the first time in Morocco and North Africa, and for the second time on the African continent. More than 60 teams of young people aged 9 to 16, from over 50 countries, will take part in this edition under the theme of "SUPERPOWERED" energy. This competition, which is the culmination of the 2022/2023 season, is the result of the hard work of the LOOP For Science & Technology Association, which has been dedicated to promoting educational robotics throughout the Kingdom. Participants will be required to show innovation by proposing solutions related to energy production, storage, transportation, and use.

"The hosting of the FIRST® LEGO® League Open International in Morocco is a real honor for us and a recognition of the efforts of our teams and volunteers over all these years, where Morocco has been well represented in various international competitions we have participated in and where the teams have won several prizes," said Laila Berchane, President of the LOOP For Science & Technology Association.

She adds: "We invite local partners to join us in celebrating the innovation and creativity of young people at this major event that will see the participation of more than 1,000 people for 4 days in Marrakech, in order to further contribute to the dissemination of Morocco's reputation internationally and to strengthen education for young people in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) fields. Moreover, this year's theme is in line with the energy transition process to which the Kingdom of Morocco is committed, and which offers opportunities."

**About LOOP For Science & Technology :**

LOOP For Science & Technology is a Moroccan association whose goal is to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) among children and young people from vulnerable backgrounds. Founded in 2018 by young Moroccan engineers and experts, it has an experienced team in the fields of education and technology. The association is a partner of major international organizations such as FIRST, the World Robot Olympiad™ Association, Nasa Space Apps Challenge…

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https://www.youtube.com/@FLLMorocco

**About FIRST LEGO League :**

The FIRST® LEGO® League is an international program aimed at integrating young people aged 9 to 16 in the field of science and technology. The idea is for teams to design and build a robot, and then program it to perform a series of missions within a limited time frame.

Each year, a theme related to the current challenge is proposed. The idea is to integrate a real problem into the design process (recycling, life in space, smart cities, etc.). Young people then go through various stages of research, discussion, design, modeling, construction, and testing before presenting their final proposal.

**Contact us :**

Laila Berchane - President :

+212 667 04 72 66

[laila.berchane@gmail.com](mailto:laila.berchane@gmail.com)

Rabia Zamouri - VP Communication :

+212 6 46 11 19 58

rabia.zamouri@gmail.com