

Chairman's Message

It is a great honour and pleasure for the Arab International Women's Forum to be holding its first conference in Dubai, Under the Patronage of HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, Wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE Ruler of Dubai.

On behalf of the Arab International Women's Forum, I am delighted to welcome distinguished guest speakers, AIWF members and participants to Powering the Future: Arab Business Women in a Modern Economy being held at the Dubai International Financial Centre at the kind invitation of the Governor HE Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman. The Arab Women's Forum wishes to thank its global corporate and institutional partners for their strong support and cooperation.

Since the publication of the AIWF Report on our 2005 Programme 'Women as Engines of Economic Growth in the Arab World' our agenda has been focused on the priority actions that the report identified to optimise gender equality and to recognise Arab women, as an important economic resource with a significant role to play in the vibrant growing private sector, and the realisation of their potential being a major force for change in the region.

Earlier events this year, following the 2007 theme 'Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship', started in January with a review of the progress made on the recommendations in the 2005 AIWF Report. Then the International Women's Day conference put the spotlight on creating a climate to stimulating women's entrepreneurship and demonstrated how young educated and competent women in the region have been actively improving their situation across all sectors of the Arab world, catalyzing their role in the economic development process.

The AIWF Dubai conference at the DIFC is a culmination of the year's programme, bringing together all these strands. Experts and practitioners will provide a more detailed analysis of the current environment for entrepreneurship in the region, identifying the challenges and prospects for financing female business initiatives, locally and internationally and explore the economic, environmental and financial context for private enterprise investment in the Arab world.

Key factors being highlighted are developing, implementing and understanding the benefits to be derived from best practices for financial management and good corporate governance policies. These aspects will be illustrated by two special sessions, a corporate governance workshop in cooperation with the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance, and an interactive seminar showcasing the success stories of achieving Arab business women featured in the AIWF book 'Domains of Influence: Arab Women Leaders in a New Economy'

AIWF is proud to be hosting this event in Dubai, in recognition of the city's unparalleled standing as the ultimate paradigm for prosperity and integration in a globalised economy. Opportunities for collaboration between the City of London, where the 2007 programme was launched in March, the City of Dubai and the wider financial community, will create an unrivalled forum for the development of the multilateral corporate and public sector partnership.

The timing for Arab women to make a real and tangible difference has never been more opportune, nor the demand for their contribution greater. AIWF believes and acknowledges that Arab women can prove to be real engines of change and development, that they can truly power progress and peace and that they are the key to the future of the region.

I wish you an enjoyable, stimulating and productive conference



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum



Dear Friends,

In today's ever increasing global economy, traditional barriers to doing business are being broken down and replaced with vast opportunities and prospects for growth. We in the Arab world are realizing this fact, and many countries in the region are re-examining their economies, introducing economic policy reforms and opening their markets to foreign investment. Yet, recent research shows that the economic growth of this region still has a long way to go. In economies such as ours where development is linked to ever changing oil prices, we find ourselves forced to create market economies to truly compete on a global scale and achieve real and sustainable expansion. For us to become truly competitive, all members of society must become active and engage in the cycle of transforming the economies of respective countries, and in essence the region as a whole.

Women in our part of the world have a role to play in the process of moving the area forward. The investment in the educational system over the past three decades gave women access to schooling and higher education. As a result literacy rates in Arab countries rose to 92% whilst in others enrolment rates for girls in primary education have reached 99.9%. This has led women to achieve significant advancement in many areas and assume positions in the fields of politics, development, and business. In the Gulf area today, women represent 35% of the national workforce, with 45,000 working in the commercial sector. In the UAE and with the support of its wise leadership and progressive government, women are participating in all walks of life. Female workers constitute 22.5% of the Federal National Council; make up 10% of the diplomatic field, two-thirds of the overall public sector, and 30% of leading positions that entail decision making.

It is both a pleasure and a privilege for Dubai to host the Arab International Women's Forum "Powering the Future - Role of Arab Business Women in a Modern Economy". Believing in the need to Power the future, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid's vision for Dubai, to become the symbol of economic growth in the region, has led the City to develop into an international hub for commerce and trade with business women playing active roles in shaping Dubai's future.

I salute the Arab International Women's Forum for addressing issues that are extremely relevant to all our communities. This gathering is an example of how women can address challenges to their own careers and therefore actively and fully participate in building the economies of their countries. I hope that this gathering will offer participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and share knowledge. I am looking forward to the positive outcomes of the meetings.

Best wishes,

HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein
Wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE, Ruler of Dubai



Guest Speakers



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani MA, Economics
Founder & Chairman Arab International Women's Forum

Haifa Al Kaylani is well known in international government and business circles as a high-impact change agent focusing on leadership in cultural and gender issues. A graduate of the American University of Beirut and University of Oxford, she brings a wide range of skills and experience to her personal mission of encouraging greater cultural understanding between Arab and international communities, supporting a strong role for women in that process.

Fluent in five languages, Mrs. Al Kaylani holds senior roles in several organizations in the UK and internationally as well as seats on the boards of charities, cultural institutions and NGOs. In 2006, Haifa Al Kaylani received recognition as one of 21 Leaders for the 21 Century by Women's eNews in New York. In February 2007 Haifa Al Kaylani was named as one of The Muslim Power 100 Leaders in the United Kingdom and received the Education Excellence Award.

Some of Mrs Al Kaylani's other roles are Vice President International *The Women's Leadership Board at Harvard University*; Advisory Board Member *The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement*; Member International Advisory Board *Khalil Gibran Chair at University of Maryland*; Member Advisory Board *Middle East Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*; Member of The Board of Trustees of *The British Edutrust Foundation*.



His Excellency Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman
Governor, Dubai International Financial Centre

His Excellency Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman is the Governor of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and the representative for DIFC affairs for His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman, who was earlier the Director General of Dubai International Financial Centre Authority (DIFC Authority) has led the phenomenal development of the DIFC. Under his leadership the DIFC established itself as the first truly international financial centre of the region and the fastest growing in the world, and is home to nearly 500 companies, including many of the world's leading financial firms. Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman has also led the development and the very successful launch of the first international financial exchange in this region, the Dubai International Financial Exchange (DIFX).

Prior to joining the DIFC, Dr Bin Sulaiman was the Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Internet City (DIC). He led the development of DIC into a major ICT cluster that houses several global giants such as Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, SAP, Cisco, Sony Ericsson, Sun Microsystems, Computer Associates and Siemens. Under his leadership, DIC achieved more than 100 per cent growth in less than a year and continued for three consecutive years. At the same time, he also led the development of several other entities under the banner of the Dubai Technology and Media (TECOM) Free Zone Authority, the Government of Dubai body responsible for the development of the knowledge clusters such as ICT, media, education, energy, etc.

Among other roles, Dr Omar is also chairman, DIFC Investments LLC (DIFC's investment arm): A member of the Economic and Trade Committee established by the Executive Council of Dubai; board member of the Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Establishment for Young Business Leaders: co-founder Dubai Aerospace Enterprise; and founder of Hawkamah, the institute for corporate governance.

Guest Speakers



HE Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi
Minister of Economy, UAE

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi is the United Arab Emirates Minister for Economy. In November 2004, she became the first woman in the country's history to assume a cabinet position, appointed to manage the United Arab Emirates' newly merged economy and planning portfolio.

Previously, she had an impressive business career with more than twenty years in information technology and management experience in the Middle East region.

Sheikha Lubna was previously the Chief Executive Officer of Tejari (www.tejai.com) the premier electronic business- to - business marketplace for emerging markets from its launch in 2000. She now serves as a board member. Prior to managing Tejari, Sheikha Lubna was the senior manager of the information systems department at the Dubai Ports Authority (DPA), before that, the Dubai branch manager for the General Information Authority, the organisation responsible for automating the federal government of the UAE.

In 2007, Sheikha Lubna was recognised by Forbes magazine as one of the most powerful women in the world and commended for her work to build trade relations and promote the 'brand' of the UAE. In the same year, she became the first Arab woman to receive the Italian 'Stella Re' prize, awarded annually to just one woman who strives to make a difference to contemporary society and culture through her innovative work, dedication and ideas. She also received a leadership award for her work in building the Tejari brand at the 16th Asia Brand Congress in India.



HE Mrs Suhair Al-Ali
Minister of Planning & International Cooperation, Jordan

Mrs. Suhair Al-Ali was appointed as Minister of Planning and International Cooperation on April 7, 2005 and reappointed on November 26th, 2005. Prior to her ministerial appointment, Mrs. Al-Ali held the positions of General Manager and Country Officer of Citigroup in Jordan from 1996, and General Manager of the Saudi American Bank Representative Office in New York from 1993.

Apart from her role as Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Mrs. Al-Ali also serves on eminent boards of a large number of vocational, business and academic institutions, and non-governmental organisations in Jordan including membership of the Board of Trustees of the Hashemite Fund and the Board of Trustees of the king Hussein Cancer Center.

Furthermore, Mrs. Al-Ali has served, by appointment of His Majesty King Abdullah II on the following Royal Committees: Member of His Majesty's Economic Consultative Council and Member of the "Jordan First" Campaign Committee. In her banking capacity, she also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the King Hussein Fund for Excellence, and the Association of Banks in Jordan.



Ms Daniela Gressani
Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa, The World Bank

Ms. Gressani, an Italian national, became Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa in September 2006. In the World Bank since 1988, Ms. Gressani has served in a number of senior positions, including Country Director for Central Europe and the Baltic States (2005-2006); Interim Director at the Office of the President (2005); Director for Strategy and Operations, Latin America & Caribbean Region (2003-2004); Sector Manager for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Europe and Central Asia (1999-2003) and Middle East and North Africa (1997-1999); as well as various economist assignments (1988-1997).

Prior to joining the World Bank, Ms. Gressani served as an economist in the Research Department of the Central Bank of Italy.

Guest Speakers



HRH Princess Mashael Bint Faisal Bin Turki Bin Abdul-Aziz
President of the Board of the Business Women Forum in the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia

Princess Mashael has always played an active role in education, human resource development and the development of the arts, encouraging participation in training programmes. Having completed a degree in Social Services Studies at King Faisal University in Riyadh in 1980, she undertook research and management roles in education and public relations. She also has a diploma in Accounting completed at the International Consulting and Training Network in Lebanon in 2003. Princess Mashael has served on the Women's Committee of the Council of Chambers of Saudi Arabia, the Women's Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for the Eastern Province and the Business Women's Committee of the General Directive of the Chambers of Commerce for the Gulf Cooperation Council. As a member of the Union of the Arab Women's Investors (Egypt), she has had the responsibility for small investments.



Mrs Raja Al Gurg
Managing Director, Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group

After graduating in 1977, Raja Easa Al Gurg worked for the Ministry of Education as a Head Mistress in Zabeel Secondary School of Dubai for 11 years before joining the family business, the Al-Gurg Group, founded by her father HE Easa Saleh Al Gurg, as a member of the Board Of Directors in 1989. She is presently the Managing Director of the Group that has now 23 divisions encompassing trading, manufacturing and real estate with 2000 plus employees and combined revenue exceeding \$2 billion. Besides her own business, she spends considerable time in several professional, philanthropic, social and charitable activities. Mrs Al Gurg is a Member of the Boards of Dubai Chamber Of Commerce & Industry; Dubai Women Association; Trustee of Tanmia; Member of the Dubai Economic Council, Govt. of Dubai; Arab International Women's Forum; National Advisory Council, College of Business Sciences, Zayed University; President of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Women Committee; Federation of the UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry Business Women Committee.



Professor Aïcha Belarbi
Former Ambassador to the European Union, Morocco
Professor and Researcher University Mohammed V. Rabat

Professor Aïcha Belarbi has a PhD from the Sorbonne and is currently professor and researcher at the University Mohammed V in Rabat. Her research concerns three fields: women's rights and gender education and dialogue between civilizations and cultures including interfaith dialogue and international migration. Aicha Belarbi is a founding member of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights, and former member, during ten years of the Scientific Committee of the Arab Institute of Human Rights.

She was also a member of different Arab and western human rights organisations such as Initiative for Peace and Co-operation in the Middle East, Human Rights Watch, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and the International Commission of Jurists. Appointed as the Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation in 1998, she represented her country at the European Union when appointed as Moroccan Ambassador, to the European Union in 2000. Professor Belarbi was nominated as Commissioner within the Global Commission on International Migration in 2004.

Guest Speakers



Mr Jeffery Culpepper
Head of Global Markets and Investment Banking MENA, Merrill Lynch

Jeffrey Culpepper is the Chairman of Merrill Lynch Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He is also CEO of Merrill Lynch International Dubai and Head of Global Markets and Investment Banking. He has 21 years experience working with Middle Eastern clients.

Before joining Merrill Lynch, Mr Culpepper was a Managing Director at Deutsche Bank with responsibility for corporate and investment banking in the Middle East and North Africa region as well as for MENA corporate clients globally. He was also CEO of Deutsche Bank, Dubai, CEO of Deutsche Bank, Riyadh, and a board member and founder of Deutsche Al Azizia Financial Services, the Deutsche Bank joint venture with HRH Prince Al Waleed bin Talal. Mr Culpepper has also served as Chairman of Dar Istithmaar, an Islamic Finance advisory joint venture owned by Deutsche Bank, Oxford University and Russell Wood.

Mr Culpepper has also worked at Chemical Bank, where he was responsible for Corporate Finance and Investment Banking for the MENA region. He was also seconded to the Vatican Secretariat of State for Foreign Affairs, Bureau of Refugee and Migration Affairs with assignments in Haiti, Togo, Zaire, Angola and Uganda. He has also served as a Peace Corps in West Africa.



Dr Zara Khatib,
PhD in Chemical Engineering and Registered Professional Engineer in Texas
Manager Technology Marketing & Deployment for Middle East Region, Caspian and South Asia Region, Shell

Dr Khatib joined Shell in 1984 following a two-year assignment as a lecturer at the Chemical Engineering Department, University of Houston and post-doctoral assignment at Imperial College London. She has over 23 years experience in exploration, production & operation and took up her present role in 2005.

Zara is recognized as a technical expert in Water Injection, Reservoir Souring and integrated Water Management in the Oil & Gas Industry credited with over 100 technical papers and presentations. In 1991, she was awarded by SPE the "Best Paper of Year Award for Production Technology" and selected to be a Distinguished Lecturer for Society of Petroleum Engineers in 1988 and the only Oil & Gas industry member of the United Nation Expert Group on Climate Change in 2005.

Currently Dr Khatib participates on several international committees such as the G8-CCS committee, World Energy Council-Clean Fossil Fuel Systems, and International Sigma XI Committee. She also chaired several Society of Petroleum Engineers technical and Educational committees including 2007 IPTC Education Week .



Mrs Sahar Mohamed Ali El Sallab
Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Commercial International Bank, Egypt

Mrs Sahar El Sallab is the Vice Chairman, and Managing Director and Board Member of Commercial International Bank in Egypt. She is also the Chairman of Commercial International Capital Holding Company, responsible both for the creation of the Asset Management Team and also the Leasing Company (Corplease).

She has worked with CIB for over 20 years, appointed in 1998 to be the official spokesperson of the bank on strategies and policies and has played a critical role in investment and privatisation in the insurance, telecom, petroleum and banking sectors.

Mrs El Sallab serves on the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt and is an active member of many organisations including the Integrated Care Society's Investment committee, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the Egyptian Red Cross and the National Sports Council.

In 2006, Mrs El Sallab was awarded Best Economic Arab Women, the Arab League, and received the Global Summit Leadership Award of Women for the Best Five Business Women in the World at the Global Summit of Women held in Cairo.

Guest Speakers



Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary General UNCTAD

Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi began his four-year term as Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 1 September 2005, following his appointment by the UN General Assembly. He previously served as Director-General of the World Trade Organization and as Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce. As Deputy Prime Minister, he was in charge of the country's economic and trade policy-making, signing the Uruguay Round Agreement in 1994 and contributing to the formulation of regional agreements.

Dr. Supachai received his Master's in Econometrics, Development Planning and his Ph.D. in Economic Planning and Development from Erasmus University in Rotterdam under the supervision of Prof. Jan Tinbergen, the first Nobel laureate in economics.

Dr. Supachai began his professional career at the Bank of Thailand in 1974, and in 1986 was elected a member of the Thai Parliament and appointed Deputy Minister of Finance. In 1988, he became Director and Advisor, and subsequently President, of the Thai Military Bank. In 1992, Dr. Supachai was appointed Senator and later that same year he became Deputy Prime Minister.



Ms Cristina Molinari
Cabinet Adviser, Ministry of International Trade, Italy

After graduating with a degree in mathematics from the University of Genoa, Italy, Cristina Molinari's career began with IBM and she worked in the technology industry until 1985. In 1986, Ms Molinari joined Accenture, a global consulting firm, and was a member of the board becoming a senior partner in 1989. In this position she served on a number of their major committees and councils, performing a variety of international leadership roles. In 2003, Ms Molinari was appointed the President of Accenture Technology Solutions in Italy and a member of the Science Committee at the Accenture Italian Foundation. Since 2005, she has been both the Advisor to the Ministry of International Trade and a Board Member of AIDOS, a non-governmental organisation which works towards empowering women around the world.



Alderman Alison J Gowman
Partner DLA Piper UK LLP

Alderman Alison Gowman trained as a solicitor at her current firm of DLA Piper UK LLP where she is a senior partner in the Real Estate Group (1978- to date). Elected member of the Court of Common Council of the City of London in 1991, she subsequently became Deputy before election to the Court of Alderman for the Ward of Dowgate in May 2002. She has served as Chairman of the City of London School for Girls and various other City of London Corporation committees.

Alison is now a member of the Finance Committee, Livery Committee, Libraries and Art Galleries Committee and Governor of the City of London School for Girls, Liveryman of the Glovers, (Court Assistant and Chairman of Finance) and the City of London Solicitors' Companies. Trustee of the Sir John Soane's Museum, Trustee of the Aldersgate Flame, Member of the Council of Gresham College, Trustee of The Missions to Seafarers and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



Ms SUNG-JOO KIM
Chairperson & CEO, Sungjoo Group/MCM Group

Sung-Joo Kim is founder of the Sungjoo Group and also now Chairperson of MCM Group/MCM Products AG/MCM Lederwaren GmbH, Ms. Kim has been involved in the fashion industry for more than 20 years, beginning her career at Bloomingdale's in 1985. Today she is one of the most celebrated businesswomen in Asia.

Since 1990, Sungjoo Group has successfully launched several globally renowned brands and retailing operations such as Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent, Sonia Rykiel and Marks & Spencer as an exclusive franchisee, running more than 100 stores in Korea. The company has also acquired MCM's global business, distributing to more than 150 retailers in 40 countries worldwide. The estimated gross annual sales of the group in 2007 are approximately 200 Million USD.

Guest Speakers



Dr Nasser Saidi
Executive Director, Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance

Dr. Nasser H. Saidi is Chief Economist of the Dubai International Financial Centre and Executive Director of the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance. A former Minister of Economy and Trade, and Minister of Industry of Lebanon (1998-2000), he was the First Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon from 1993- 2003. He is co-chair with the OECD of the MENA Corporate Governance Working Group. He was appointed by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as a member of the UN Committee for Development Policy (UNCDP) from 2000-2006.

Dr Saidi is the author of a recent book, “Corporate Governance in the MENA countries: Improving Transparency & Disclosure” and numerous other publications. He has served as economic adviser and director to a number of central banks and financial institutions in the Arab world, Europe and Central and Latin America. Prior to his public career, Dr. Saidi pursued a career as an academic: as a professor of economics in the Department of Economics of the University of Chicago, the Institute Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales, the Université de Genève, the American University of Beirut and the Université St. Joseph in Beirut.



Mrs. Nadereh Chamlou
Senior Advisor, (Economic and Sector Work) Office
of the Chief Economist Middle East and North Africa Region, The World Bank.

In her capacity as Senior Adviser, the World Bank MENA Region Nadereh Chamlou leads the region's gender agenda and advises on the Bank's policy and advisory work. Mrs. Chamlou has extensive cross sectoral and cross country experience. In her 25 years with the World Bank, she has worked in technical and managerial positions across the World Bank Group in such areas as private sector development, financial sector development, oil & gas, telecom, power, infrastructure, environment, corporate governance, and the knowledge economy. In addition to countries in the Middle East and North Africa, she has also worked on Mexico, republics of former Yugoslavia, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Papua New Guinea. Born and raised in Iran and educated in Europe and US, she brings a multidimensional perspective to gender that is beneficial to addressing equality and women's empowerment issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Nadereh is a graduate of Georgetown's School of Foreign Service.



Dr. Celia de Anca
Merrill Lynch External Diversity Advisor

Celia de Anca, a professor of Global Diversity, is Director of the Centre for Diversity in Global Management at Instituto de Empresa Business School, Madrid and is also External Diversity Advisor for Merrill Lynch.

Co-author of the book “Managing Diversity in the Global Organization” she organizes training and mentoring programs for female entrepreneurs in Latin American and Islamic countries and has run and managed educational projects in the Middle East for 10 years. Professor de Anca is a member of the Ethics Committee of Morgan Stanley's Ethics Fund, Spain and the International Scientific Committee of the University Euromed in Marseille, France.

Celia de Anca holds masters degrees in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston, and in European Community Studies from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. She also holds a BA in Arabic Philology and a PhD in Philosophy from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

Previously the Director of Corporate Programmes at the Euro-Arab Management School, Granada, she has also worked for the Fundación Cooperación Internacional y Promoción Ibero-América Europa and at the International Division of Banco de Santander.

Guest Speakers



Mrs Neveen El Tehri
Chairperson Delta Securities, Egypt

Neveen El Tehri graduated in 1980 from Cairo University Faculty of Economics & Political Science and joined the Commercial International Bank (formerly Chase National Bank of Egypt) She progressed to become one of the four Assistant General Managers heading the Petroleum, Tourism and Electronic Corporate Banking divisions. For ten years 1992 – 2002, alongside various jobs, she worked as an external tutor at the American University of Cairo teaching courses aligned to financial institutions.

She was the first woman to sit on the Board of the Cairo and Alexandria Stock Exchange between 1997-2003. Neveen El Tehri currently holds four positions. She is the Country Representative of ABN AMRO Bank, Chairperson, founder and owner of three companies, Delta Rasmala Securities Egypt, Delta Rasmala Asset Management and Delta Rasmala Capital Investments. In June 2007, she was named by the Financial Times as one of 26 Leading Businesswomen in the Arab World.



Ms Ruth Martin
Managing Director, Securities & Investment Institute, UK

Ruth Martin joined the SII as Director of Qualifications in 2002 and became Managing Director in 2004.

Ruth Martin's career has focussed on the way in which "best professional practice" can be implemented through education and training.

Ruth's first career was in the UK executive Civil Service at the Department of Employment where she held a range of managerial and policy posts related to the links between employment and training. She has been a principal lecturer in management, specializing in training management and a consultant specializing in accreditation and competency based training and assessment. She has an MA from the Department of Organisational Psychology, Birbeck College University of London, is a chartered member of the UK Chartered Management Institute and a Fellow of the UK's Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Prior to joining the SII she was Director of Professional Development at the Market Research Society.



Ms Dania Mchaourab
Vice President, Forsa

Ms. Mchaourab started her career in Finance in Lebanon with Arab Bank, and subsequently Merrill Lynch, before moving to the UAE where she worked with Abraaj Capital, and Rasmala. She is currently a Vice President with Forsa, a Dubai World Investment Company created by Women for Women. She is managing the real estate funds and investments of the company.

Ms. Mchaourab has been actively involved in academic research and teaching. She taught many graduate and undergraduate courses concentrating on subjects within the Real Estate practice in Lebanon, and will be teaching a finance course in the American University in Dubai. She published research in the USA and Lebanon. Ms Mchaourab holds a Master's degree from Harvard University, and a Bachelor degree from the American University of Beirut and is certified as a Project Management Professional by the Project Management Institute.

Guest Speakers



Mr Frederic Sicre
Executive Director, Abraaj Capital

Mr. Frederic Sicre has over 16 years of experience in global issues, regional development agendas and community building. In the early 90's, he established the activities of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Africa and the Middle East. He then managed the Forum's Centre for Regional Strategies and was promoted to WEF Managing Director in June 2000.

Mr. Sicre has initiated dialogue and reconciliation initiatives during South Africa's transition to democracy and between Palestinians and Israelis. He has also initiated the first Africa and Arab World Competitiveness reports.

He is a founding member of the Arab Business Council and editor of South Africa at Ten - a book celebrating the ten years of democracy in the country. Mr. Sicre brings a vast network of decision makers from around the world in all fields of activity such as government, private sector, media, and culture. From 2002 to 2005 he served as a member of the international advisory board of Scripps Medical Foundation, San Diego, USA.



Mr Saad Abdul- Latif
President SAMEA Region, PepsiCo International

Saad Abdul-Latif is President of the South Asia, Middle East and Africa (SAMEA) Region of the PepsiCo International (PI) Division of PepsiCo, Inc., one of the leading global convenient food and beverage companies. PepsiCo's portfolio of products includes an ever-evolving and expanding array of much-loved brands – responsive to the needs of its consumers. The SAMEA Region represents approximately 10% of PepsiCo's business world-wide.

A 25 plus year veteran of PI, Mr. Abdul-Latif joined the company as a field rep in 1982. Throughout his career with PepsiCo, he has held a wide range of roles throughout the Middle East. His passion, commitment to the business, and ability to drive growth spurred his career development in PI. Recognition of the strength of his leadership resulted in the continuing evolution and expansion of the territory under his management.

In 1998, Mr. Abdul-Latif was appointed General Manager for PepsiCo's beverage business in the MENAPAK Business Unit. In 2001, his region was expanded to include Africa and Central Asia. In 2004, the snacks business in the region was included under his leadership, forming the consolidated MEA Region. Finally, in the most recent expansion of his mandate, Mr. Abdul-Latif's responsibilities were extended to South Asia, forming the new SAMEA Region of PI.

In his current role as President of the SAMEA Region, Mr. Abdul-Latif sits at the helm of a \$3 billion dollar business. His region spans across 88 countries and is home to almost half of the world's population. SAMEA Region has more than 20,000 employees.

On the personal front, Mr. Abdul-Latif is a dedicated advocate and supporter of education in general, and education for children in particular. He currently sits on the board of Planet Finance and is the former Chairperson of World Links – Arab Region.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship
AIWF Conference Dubai
'POWERING THE FUTURE'
'Arab Business Women in a Modern Economy'
Dubai International Financial Centre
10 – 11 December 2007

Sunday 9 December

19.00 – 21.00

Welcome Reception and Registration

Al Jumeirah Room, the Jumeirah Emirates Towers

Monday 10 December

09.00 – 10.30

CONFERENCE OPENING SESSION

Welcome Address and Introduction to the Conference

Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum

SPECIAL ADDRESS

HE Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman

Governor, Dubai International Financial Centre

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

HE Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi

Minister of Economy, United Arab Emirates

SPECIAL ADDRESS

HE Mrs Suhair Al-Ali

Minister of Planning & International Cooperation, Jordan

WORLD BANK MESSAGE

Ms Daniela Gressani

Vice President, for the Middle East and North Africa,
The World Bank

10.30 – 11.00

COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 13.00

Plenary Session I

Entrepreneurship in the Arab World

This session will examine the current environment for entrepreneurship in the region: what innovative approaches are necessary to succeed and what obstacles, challenges or barriers do female entrepreneurs in the Arab world, in particular, face.

Objective: Examine the current environment for entrepreneurship in the region

MODERATOR/SPEAKER

Ms Daniela Gressani

Vice President, for the Middle East and North Africa,
The World Bank

SPEAKERS

HRH Princess Masha'el bint Faisal

President of the Board of the Business Women Forum
in the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia

Mrs Raja Al Gurg

Managing Director, Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group
and President DBWC

Professor Aicha Belarbi

Former Ambassador to the European Union, Morocco
Professor and Researcher University Mohammed V, Rabat

13.00 – 14.30

LUNCHEON

14.30 – 16.15

Plenary Session II

Financing and Promoting Female Entrepreneurship

What are the opportunities for financing female private sector ventures, whether local initiatives or foreign investment, through business angels, capital markets, equity funds, or other sources? What is being done to further narrow the gender gap?

Objective: Look at opportunities for financing female private sector ventures, whether local initiatives or foreign investment

SPEAKERS

Mr Jeffery Culpepper

Head of Global Markets and Investment Banking MENA,
Merrill Lynch

Dr Zara Khatib

Manager Technology Marketing & Deployment for Middle East
Region, Caspian and South Asia Region, Shell

Ms Sahar Mohamed Ali El Sallab

Vice Chairman & Managing Director,
Commercial International Bank, Egypt

16.15 – 16.30

COFFEE BREAK

16.30 – 18.30

Plenary Session III

Global Networks and Partnerships: Sharing Experiences

What lessons can be derived from the experiences of the international business community, leadership groups and NGOs that might benefit women in the Arab World and help improve business standards, best practices and skills in the region?

Objective: Learn from international experience

MODERATOR/SPEAKER

Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi

Secretary General, UNCTAD

SPEAKERS

Dr Cristina Molinari

Cabinet Adviser, Ministry of International Trade, Italy

Alderman Alison Gowman

Partner, DLA Piper UK LLP

Ms Sung-Joo Kim

Chairperson & CEO, Sungjoo Group/ MCM Group

Book Launch Evening Reception

19.00 – 21.00

The Atrium, Dubai International Financial Centre

'Domains of Influence:

Arab Women Business Leaders in a New Economy'

Tuesday 11 December

09.00 – 11.00

AIWF - Hawkamah Workshop

The Value of Good Corporate Governance for Women's Entrepreneurship in the MENA Region

About 13% of the enterprises in MENA have female principal owners. Close to 95% of these are in the medium to very large scale sectors – where good corporate governance is important. A good proportion of the female owned firms (around 50%) are family businesses, particularly among the large ones. Good corporate governance is important for these owners to divest, expand, mergers and acquisitions as a means to expand, or plan for succession.

1 Introduction

Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani

Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum

2 Women Entrepreneurs in the MENA

- Share of women owned firms
- Women owned firms by size, sector, and type of firm

3 Impact of Good Corporate Governance for

- Female owners of small, medium and large enterprises
- Access to capital
- Investors

4 Women Entrepreneurs and Corporate Boards

- The reasons behind women's meagre presence on corporate boards
- The rationale for women's inclusion on corporate boards
- Forces of change promoting the greater inclusion of women

5 Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance

SPEAKERS

Dr Nasser Saidi,

Executive Director, Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance

Mrs. Nadereh Chamlou

Senior Advisor (Economic & Sector Work),
Office of the Chief Economist,
Middle East and North Africa Region, The World Bank

Dr Celia de Anca

Merrill Lynch External Diversity Adviser

Mrs. Neveen Al Tehri

Chairperson Delta Securities, Egypt

Ms Ruth Martin

Managing Director, Securities & Investment Institute, UK

Ms Dania Mchaourab

Vice President, Forsa

11.00 – 11.30

COFFEE BREAK

11.30 – 13.30

Plenary Session II

**Business Women Leaders in the Arab World -
Achieving Success and ‘Growing’ the Next Generation
of Women Entrepreneurs**

Best Practices featuring the Arab Business Women Leaders in the
AIWF Book

***‘Domains of Influence:
Arab Women Business Leaders in a New Economy’***

*Objective: Discuss the challenges and barriers that women face
in business*

INTRODUCTION

Mrs Nadereh Chamlou

Senior Advisor (Economic & Sector Work), Office of the Chief
Economist, Middle East and North Africa Region, The World Bank

MODERATOR

Mr Frederic Sicre

Executive Director, Abraaj Capital

PARTICIPANTS

Business Women Leaders featured in the Book

13.30 – 15.00

LUNCHEON

**Gala Reception and Dinner
at 19.45**

*Al Falak Ballroom, Burj Al Arab
Dubai*

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr Saad Abdul-Latif

President South Asia, Middle East and Africa (SAMEA)
Region of the PepsiCo International (PI) Division of PepsiCo, Inc

Powering the Future Arab Business Women in a Modern Economy

نحو مستقبل رائد القيادات النسائية العربية في إقتصاد جديد

Partner Profiles

Leading Partners



The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) the world's fastest growing global financial hub, was declared open for business in 2004. The DIFC is ideally located to bridge the gap between existing financial centres of London and New York in the West and Hong Kong and Tokyo in the East and services a region with the largest untapped emerging market for financial services.

The vision of the DIFC is to shape tomorrow's financial map as a global gateway for capital and investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for regional economic growth, development and diversification by positioning the DIFC as a globally recognised financial centre.

Critical to the DIFC's success is Dubai's established track record of realising projects of scale in an environment that is safe, vibrant and exciting. HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has continued to lead efforts that have established the Emirate as one of the fastest growing cities in the world. During the period 2000-2006, Dubai GDP grew by cumulative annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13 per cent in real terms.

Guaranteeing the DIFC's success is its location. With a sophisticated physical infrastructure, a highly skilled, educated and multi-cultural workforce, a visionary leadership and a stringent regulatory framework, the DIFC is poised to tap the largest emerging market for financial services within a region. The world's newest international financial centre has become a reality and both the region and the world's financial community are set to benefit.



As a leading global company, which recognizes the role it plays in society, **PepsiCo** is focused on delivering Performance with Purpose. This means continuing to achieve profitable growth, while giving back to the communities we serve. PepsiCo's financial performance is delivered with an eye on the goals of nourishing consumers, replenishing the environment, and cherishing our people.

PepsiCo's SAMEA Region includes a vast market stretching over 88 countries, with a combined population of over 2.5 billion people. Billions of PepsiCo snacks and beverages are consumed in the Region each year, forming an integral part of consumers' everyday lives. PepsiCo brands have been market leaders throughout the Region, in some countries for as long as 50 years.

Over the years, PepsiCo has worked to reflect the diversity of our consumer base in our workforce. This has allowed for the creation of extremely diverse teams, especially within the SAMEA Region. At PepsiCo, we have built an inclusive culture where every individual feels that their contributions are valued.

In recognition of the similarities of our respective commitments, PepsiCo is pleased to support the continuous efforts of the AIWF to promote gender equality and cultural diversity.



Abraaj Capital is the premier investment firm specialising in private equity investment in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region. The management team has brought together some of the most compelling and successful transactions in the history of leveraged acquisitions across the region.

With over US\$4 billion of assets currently under management, Abraaj has pioneered institutionalizing private equity practice in the region and is setting trends and benchmarks for others to follow.

Winner of industry awards including 'Middle East Private Equity Firm of the Year' from Private Equity International (2006 & 2007), the Banker Middle East Award for 'Best Private Equities Institution' in 2006 and for 'Outstanding Contribution to Financial Services in the Middle East' in 2007. Arabian Business recently recognized Abraaj among the 50 Most Admired Companies in the GCC. Abraaj is also the first pure private equity firm to be registered by DFSA to operate out of Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

Apart from managing its seven private equity funds, Abraaj Capital Holdings Limited (ACHL) is also the single largest shareholder in the leading regional investment bank EFG-Hermes. ACHL itself is extremely well capitalized, with an issued share capital of US\$1 billion. Its 135 professionals come from 27 nationalities and achieve a coverage that spans the MENASA region.

Programme Partners



Hawkamah, the Institute for Corporate Governance, constitutes a groundbreaking development for institution building, corporate sector reform, sound banking and financial sector development, good governance, sustainable economic development and growth in the region. Hawkamah's mission is to assist the countries and companies of the region to develop sound and globally well integrated corporate governance frameworks.

Hawkamah is an international association that aims to efficiently to coordinate and sequence the designing, planning and implementation of corporate governance reforms and monitoring the outcome of corporate governance policies at the private sector level.

Being in and devoted to the region, Hawkamah's strengths lay in its proximity to the countries and companies of the Gulf and the Middle East and in its strong partnerships with international and regional organizations such as the International Finance Corporation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, International Institute of Finance, Financial Services Volunteer Corps, Global Corporate Governance Forum, Center for International Private Enterprise, Union of Arab Banks, Dubai International Financial Centre, among others..



Merrill Lynch is one of the world's leading wealth management, capital markets and advisory companies, with offices in 38 countries and territories and total client assets of approximately \$1.8 trillion. As an investment bank, it is a leading global trader and underwriter of securities and derivatives across a broad range of asset classes and serves as a strategic advisor to corporations, governments, institutions and individuals worldwide.

As Merrill Lynch has successfully reinvented itself over the years - from a U.S.-based retail securities broker to a diversified global financial services company - our workforce diversity efforts have evolved as well..

The focus on race and gender issues that initially drove our diversity initiatives in the United States now has a global perspective. We want to ensure that Merrill Lynch is a meritocracy in which diversity thrives at every level and at every location of the company.

We recognise the ideas, energy and value Arab business women can bring to a modern economy. Through our partnership with AIWF, Merrill Lynch is in a strong position to further our diversity efforts, support the development of professional women in the Middle East and continue to provide a world class level of service to all our clients.

Supporting Partners



In the framework of its commitment to Diversity and Inclusiveness, **Shell** has actively supported the Arab International Women's Forum since its creation. We fully subscribe to their aims to encourage women's economic empowerment.

As a global employer, we strive to attract, develop and retain the best and brightest people. A key aim is to have our workforce more closely mirror the global demographics that exist today and what we expect the future to represent. Shell has made solid progress in improving the representation of women in the workforce and in senior leadership positions, including one who is listed on Fortune magazine's '50 Most Powerful International Women in Business'.

We strive every day to translate our core values of honesty, integrity and respect for people and our commitment to diversity and inclusiveness into solving the challenge of supplying the world's energy needs. Through these efforts, we better understand and build relationships within communities thereby optimising the positive economic and social impact of Shell's presence.



Crescent Petroleum has been operating as an upstream oil and gas company for more than thirty-six years. It began its activities in the early 1970's and was the first regional, independent, privately owned Middle Eastern petroleum company to engage in the acquisition, exploration and development of petroleum concessions; and the production and sale of crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas.

At the end of the 1980's, Crescent Petroleum held concessions in Argentina, Canada, Yugoslavia, France, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, and in the 1990's it added to these with concessions in Egypt, Pakistan and Yemen. A particular area of focus for the long-term growth of the Company's business is the development, marketing and utilization of natural gas assets in the MENASA (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) region and the Company has pioneered this role since the mid 1980's.

Crescent Petroleum is headquartered in Sharjah in the UAE, with international offices strategically located in the UK, Iraq and Iran and affiliate offices in Canada and Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



With a heritage stretching back over eighty years, **General Motors (GM)** brings its host of vehicle brands, services and technologies to customers across the region. Through its regional headquarters in Dubai, GM oversees operations in Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Syria and Yemen - the largest presence of any automaker in the region.

The range of vehicles offered by GM in the region under the Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC, Opel, Saab and Hummer brands is unmatched by any other manufacturer. From small cars like the Chevrolet Spark to full size trucks such as the GMC Suburban or luxury cars like the Cadillac SLS, GM offers Arab customers reliable, fun to drive vehicles.

GM was the first automaker to test, validate and re-engineer its vehicles with specifications tailored for the harsh driving conditions and specific customer preferences of the region. GM also offers a rich after-sales experience through the ACDelco and GM Parts businesses.

GM's regional commitment has never been stronger as evidenced by the number of new vehicle introductions, customer service initiatives and investments in business infrastructure.

GM's greatest asset is the quality and capability of its diverse work force. The company strives to attract, retain, develop and nurture its work force in a supportive employee environment. It believes in offering maximum opportunity for all and is considered an employer of choice with an educated, diverse population.

To generate employee pride and motivation, GM formed the General Motors University (GMU) in 1997, a global network of education resources aimed at helping GM employees continuously improve their performance. Its vision is to provide leading edge learning resources that help develop professional excellence and result in technical and business leadership.

Conference Support



The mission of the **Dubai Business Women Council** is to proactively encourage business and professional women in Dubai to participate in a variety of business segments in order to enhance the contribution, productivity and activity of business and professional women locally and internationally with the following objectives:

1. To represent the DBWC at Arab and international conferences and forums related to business and professional women.
2. To cooperate with local and international institutions to increase awareness about the council and to share and contribute business ideas between the business women and different organizations.
3. To negotiate problems that face women at the work place and find solutions and recommendations to solve these problems.
4. To provide facilities and introduce business women to the Dubai Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), its services and activities.
5. To organise networking opportunities by inviting business women to participate in a variety of events organized by the Dubai Chambers of Commerce and industry.



European luxury designer brand **MCM (Mode Creation Munich)** is making a major comeback in the premium accessories market. Founded in 1976 in Munich, MCM started out manufacturing luxury leather travel goods. During the brand's 1980s heyday, MCM produced about 500 different pieces of popular stylish, luxurious and functional products. In 2005, the brand was updated with more modern, young and sporty goods.

In 2006, the opening of the flagship store in Berlin showcased a new direction and future for MCM.

This year, the company is embarking on a period of dynamic growth throughout the major style capitals of the world including 12 key cities in USA, London, Paris, Japan as well as boutiques in Beijing, Shanghai, Taiwan, Macao, Moscow and a flagship store in Hong Kong. Further expansion is planned in Asia. MCM sales are expected to exceed approximately US\$200 million in 2007.



DLA Piper is one of the world's largest legal services organisations with over 3600 lawyers across 64 offices in 25 countries worldwide.

Voted "Global Law Firm of the Year" (The Lawyer Awards 2006), DLA Piper provides a full range of relationship-driven, international quality legal services. The firm supports Middle East businesses operating regionally, those expanding internationally and multinational organisations with interests in the Middle East region.

Its full-service model and consequent ability to service all of the legal needs of its clients distinguishes DLA Piper from other international law firms in the Middle East.

DLA Piper's presence in Dubai (UAE), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Muscat (Oman) and Cairo (Egypt) enable it to deliver to clients rapid, first-class legal services throughout the region. The firm is committed to continued expansion in the Gulf and Middle East and expects to open offices in Abu Dhabi and Qatar during the 4th quarter of 2007.

DLA Piper's Middle East team includes lawyers qualified in a wide range of international jurisdictions and offers a diverse range of language capabilities. The combination of a local presence in the Middle East and an extensive global network of offices allows DLA Piper to offer clients worldwide legal support.



Jumeirah properties are regarded as among the most luxurious and innovative in the world and have won numerous international travel and tourism awards. The company was founded in 1997 with the aim to become a hospitality industry leader through establishing a world class portfolio of luxury hotels and resorts. To date, the Jumeirah portfolio includes luxury hotels and resorts in Dubai, London and New York.

Jumeirah's core essence to STAY DIFFERENT™ promises guests experiences that are as unique and innovative as the brand itself. It recognises the distinctiveness of luxury travellers and the importance of personal experiences in their lives.

In line with this core essence, the individuality of the Jumeirah portfolio is unmistakable. Building on this success, in 2004 Jumeirah Group became a member of Dubai Holding - a collection of leading Dubai-based businesses and projects - in line with a new phase of growth and development for the Group.

Jumeirah is pleased to welcome the AIWF to its hotels in Dubai, the Jumeirah Emirates Towers and to the world renowned Burj Al Arab, the world's most luxurious hotel and the venue for the AIWF gala conference dinner.

Acknowledgments

The Arab International Women's Forum would like to recognise the encouragement and support of the many partners whose cooperation and participation helps AIWF through its programme of activities in the Arab region and internationally to push forward the agenda for business and growth.

AIWF 2007 DUBAI CONFERENCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Arab International Women's Forum wishes to extend a special acknowledgment and deep appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Omar Bin Sulaiman, Governor of the Dubai International Financial Centre for his most valued support in kindly hosting the AIWF 2007 Dubai Conference.

AIWF is proud to have the support of Global Corporate and Institutional Partners whose generous support and cooperation made the 2007 Dubai Conference Programme possible

Leading Partners:	PepsiCo International, Abraaj Capital
Programme Partners:	The Hawkamah Institute, Merrill Lynch
Supporting Partners:	Shell, General Motors, Crescent Petroleum
Conference Support:	The Dubai Business Women Council, MCM, DLA Piper, Jumeirah Group

We gratefully acknowledge, with kind thanks and much appreciation, the courtesy, close cooperation and professional services provided by the following institutions and organisations:

Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dubai

Dubai International Financial Centre Corporate Affairs and
Public Relations management and teams, Dubai

The Conference and Banqueting team, Burj Al Arab, Dubai

Conferences & Events and Reservation teams, Jumeirah Emirates Towers, Dubai

Events Management team, Shangri – La Hotel, Dubai

Mount Street Printers and Stationers, London

Satin Silverware, Sheffield UK

The Arab International Women's Forum would like to thank, in particular,
Mr Gerald Lawless, Executive Chairman, Jumeirah Group
Mr Hans Heijligers, Area General Manager, Jumeirah Emirates Towers, Dubai

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO GLOBAL ANNUAL PARTNERS

AIWF greatly appreciates the confidence and strong ongoing support of our Annual Global Partners and their active participation in the 2007 Programme 'Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship' events.

PepsiCo International Shell International Merrill Lynch
DLA Piper UK LLP General Motors IBM PricewaterhouseCoopers
Jumeirah Group

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

We would like to acknowledge the valuable continuing cooperation of governmental and institutional partners and benefactors for our 2007 Programme Theme, Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship and in particular their collaboration for the publication

*'Women as Engines of Economic Growth – Moving Forward
'Achievements & Perspectives:
Review of the 2005 Programme Report & Recommendations.'*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK

The League of Arab States, Cairo

The European Parliament

The European Commission

The World Bank



ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM
المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة



ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

Building bridges, building business has been the guiding principle of the Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) since it was set up in 2001. It is a unique network connecting Arab and international women in key positions in business and professions and in community leadership, public and political life.

AIWF provides a voice for Arab women, promoting cultural diversity and creating greater public awareness of the challenges of bringing more women into the economic life of the region but also to the huge advantages of making it happen.

Working at the highest levels, the growing role of AIWF is acknowledged by collaboration with many leading Arab and international organisations – among them the League of Arab States, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, UK, the World Bank, the European Commission and European Parliament, as well as UN agencies, NGOs, academic, economic and trade institutions.

AIWF, as a non profit organisation, has forged valuable partnerships with global companies deeply engaged in the region and having strong diversity policies. The Arab International Women's Forum greatly appreciates the valued and ongoing support of Shell International, PepsiCo International, DLA Piper, General Motors, IBM, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Merrill Lynch and Jumeirah International.

Recognised for its ability to provide connectivity between governments, corporate and institutional partners and international organisations, AIWF offers initiatives that promote economic development, international understanding, prosperity and peace.

The Arab International Women's Forum is a membership based organisation. For more information about members' benefits, the AIWF Programme and a membership organisation, kindly contact our office.

Arab International Women's Forum

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(in alphabetical order)

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