2012 AIWF Conference

Under the esteemed Patronage of
His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Sharjah and Founder and President of the American University of Sharjah

Emerging Economies, Emerging Leaderships: Arab Women and Youth as Drivers of Change

قهادات رائدة في اقتصاد ناشيء
المرأة والشباب في العالم العربي محفز للتغيير

15 – 17 May 2012

American University of Sharjah
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Chairman’s Message

On behalf of the Arab International Women’s Forum, I am delighted to welcome honoured guest speakers, distinguished AIWF Institutional Partners, Global Corporate Partners and Conference Partners, members and participants to **Emerging Economies, Emerging Leadships: Arab Women and Youth as Drivers of Change** being held at one of the leading universities and centres of excellence in the Arab world, The American University of Sharjah, with whom AIWF is proud to be co-hosting this important two-day Conference which will bring together eminent Arab and global leaders.

The Arab International Women’s Forum is proud and truly honoured that this event has the esteemed patronage of His Highness, Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Sharjah and Founder and President of the American University of Sharjah.

AIWF’s 10th Anniversary Conference in London reflected on a successful decade promoting the development and advancement of Arab women in business, professional, political and public life. It happened also to fall in one of the most significant years in recent Arab history, offering a unique opportunity to formulate AIWF’s forward-looking programme to face up to the challenges of a new era, examining the Arab world from a new and exciting perspective, exploring the potential and future ramifications of change within the region with a view to securing the inclusion of women and youth.

Job creation, education and capacity-building, sustainable growth and gender equality are the central themes of this programme, because they are among the most critical challenges the region is facing at this moment in time. According to the World Bank, the Arab world needs to create 75 - 100 million jobs by 2020 in order to see any significant reduction in unemployment and absorb the number of young graduates entering the work force each year.

This Conference will explore current job creation initiatives in the region and in other emerging economies around the world. It will attempt also to remove barriers to female entrepreneurship in the region by encouraging women-led small and medium enterprises, based on the notion that female entrepreneurship is capable of driving growth by helping to diversify the economy and create more and better jobs. It will examine the education system in the MENA region with educators and policy-makers in terms of how it relates to job creation as a central tenet of the sustainable development process. It will seek to influence societal infrastructures so as to benefit all Arab citizens and shape future policy in the region. It will identify and promote factors which will create real opportunities and economic growth and provide a better future for women and youth.

According to the UN Secretary General, all nations are currently affected, at different levels, by a slow recovery from the financial and economic crisis, increased economic uncertainty, high unemployment and prolonged instability in the food and fuel markets and that “global policy responses need to recognise women’s economic empowerment as an essential part of the solution to achieving balanced and sustainable global growth, with equality and justice and dignity for women and men.”

AIWF seeks at this important conference to reinforce its long-held belief that in order for the Arab world to enter into a new era of equality, it must mobilise all its resources – women and youth included – to achieve its full potential. We firmly believe that gender equality and balanced economic growth go hand in hand in the Arab world and that the empowerment of women and youth must be placed at the heart of the sustainable development process for the region.

I wish you all an enjoyable, stimulating and productive conference.

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani
Founder Chairman, Arab International Women’s Forum
Message from
His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi
Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah,
Founder and President of the American University of Sharjah

I welcome the AIWF to the American University of Sharjah. It is gratifying that the American University of Sharjah is co-hosting this AIWF annual conference, for AUS has educated and equipped women to be innovative in private enterprise. This establishes a vital partnership between private education and private industry which grows with each passing year. The University exists to build continued competence for our country and its neighbors: (1) by training both male and female students with skills and ideas to compete internationally, (2) by providing answers through scientific and humanistic research to the vexing problems with which we must deal, and, (3) by assisting in the entrance of female and male graduates into the workforce.

We convene for two days to consider ways to empower women and the young for the rigors of the private sector. Perhaps for the first time in many centuries our part of the world is in a “must-change” dynamic to include the coming-of-age generation in productive employment. The private sector is the most viable avenue to generate the necessary employment. To remain profitable, industry and commerce must respond very rapidly to changing needs, so that we in education must prepare job candidates who are broadly trained and sufficiently flexible to change with the market requirements.

The future of the region, therefore, must consider ways to expand the marketplace for all potential workers. Education furnishes the requisite technical skills, but more importantly, it instills life-long-learning for professionals to seek new answers throughout their careers. When students formulate their own answers to the vital questions of life, society, and economy, learning generates a self-sustaining momentum. Not only do our universities respond to our country's needs, but those well-educated alumni pass on the “love of learning” to their own children and to those around them. Universities like AUS thus provide an unshakeable foundation for generations to come.

In our part of the Middle East, the UAE has a rapidly expanding and diversifying private sector. The public and private sectors have partnered to create assertive programs for university graduates to become “job-ready.” We applaud the innovative steps put into practice by the Arab International Women’s Forum eleven years ago for involving under represented labor sectors.

Sharjah developed institutions of higher education, research, and cultural enhancement for young women and men to meet the future armed with expertise and resilient intellectual foundations. The Sharjah Women’s Council, the Sharjah Supreme Council for Family Affairs, and the Sharjah Ladies Club were established to support, improve, and empower women and youth. Women entrepreneurs have begun about 30% of the new businesses in Sharjah. Across the UAE, women have arisen as CEOs, executives of many sorts, and now serve as ministers of government.
Yet, the UAE and the GCC exist in a wider region with an enormously young population that must have its place in emerging economies. As a whole, the region has the capacity to prosper together and resolve many of its challenges. Many accomplished leaders in the Forum will evaluate models and potential business plans to resolve demand for employment in the Arab world with the large supply of youthful job seekers. They are here to make these plans work. Remember, the region is united by a common culture. With 400 million people --which is about the size of the European Union-- the Middle East has the potential to produce its own requirements through common protocols and strategies.

But far more must be done if the needs of our populations are to be fully met. It would be best for the standard of living for all economies to work at full capacity. This would include making greater use of the creativity and talents of female workers, who now constitute a majority of university degree holders in some countries. As the residents of an arid land, most of the Middle East imports food. As necessary ingredients of life, food and fuel are subject to inflationary pressures. Rising costs for basic commodities thus often reverberate throughout emerging economies to further compound pressures.

Thus, productive capacities must be expanded. As a harbinger of the new Middle East, the active networking of the AIWF has created pioneering opportunities for women to enter and advance through the work force. Women now count among top executives of many industries. And working women have brought new thinking and talent to solving pressing needs. The AIWF brings together some of the most dynamic and far-sighted leaders to devise ways to involve the talent pool of women and young workers in gainful employment. During this Forum, the conferees will evaluate specific ways to increase the job capabilities and competitiveness of women and young workers through job creation, education, leadership training, and capacity building of many sorts.

Remember, the future belongs to the young adults of today who will propel their economies and their countries when provided with sufficient opportunity. And this includes women at all levels of the work force. I wish you well as you begin your timely deliberations.
His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi
Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah, Founder and President of the American University of Sharjah

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi is a member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates, the Ruler of Sharjah, and President of American University of Sharjah.

His Highness became the Ruler of Sharjah and its dependencies and a member of the Supreme Council in 1972. He is the 15th Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah in a chain of Al Qassimi rulers since the year 1630. He served as the UAE Minister of Education from 1971-72. As the Ruler of Sharjah, His Highness has led the social, economic and cultural development of the emirate. In addition, His Highness has devoted considerable effort and resources to promote intercultural interactions and dialogues among the peoples of the world. He is known throughout the region as a firm believer in the significance of the role arts and culture play in bridging the minds and souls of the people of the world. Toward this aim, he initiated the touring Sharjah Cultural Festivals, which bring aspects of Arab and Islamic arts and culture to the cities around the world.

His Highness has placed great emphasis on nurturing civic awareness, participation and social responsibilities and has encouraged the establishment of many non-governmental organizations to promote social interactions between the communities and the government. He established the Sharjah Consultative Council to involve the people of Sharjah in the development and review of projects at all levels within the Emirate of Sharjah. He also established municipal councils in the cities and towns of the Emirate of Sharjah to decentralize the consultations between the communities and the different levels of government. He has actively promoted the establishment and development of numerous organizations, museums, institutes and associations fostering culture, the arts and science, academia, cultural and national heritage conservation, commerce, industry and agriculture.

In addition to serving as President of American University of Sharjah, His Highness is also President of the University of Sharjah. He has been a Visiting Professor at Exeter University, UK; Visiting Professor at Cairo University, Egypt; and Professor of Modern History of the Gulf at the University of Sharjah.
His Highness holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering from Cairo University, Egypt; a Doctor of Philosophy with Distinction in History from the University of Exeter, UK; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Geography from Durham University, UK. He is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees from universities around the world, including an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from the American University in Cairo, Egypt; an Honorary Doctorate in Arts from University of Sheffield, UK; an Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Tübingen, Germany; an Honorary Doctorate from the Armenian Academy of Science, Armenia; an Honorary Doctorate in Administration from McMaster University, Canada; an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Edinburgh, UK; an Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy in Education from International Islamic University of Malaysia; an Honorary Doctorate in History from the Eastern Studies Institute, Academy of Russian Studies, Russia; an Honorary Doctorate in Arabic and Islamic Studies from Exeter University, UK.

He has served as Honorary President of various organizations and associations including the Union of Arab Universities; the Arab Theater Institute; the Society of Arab Astronomy and Space Sciences; the Islamic International Organization for the History of Sciences; the Egyptian Association for the Study of History; the Council of World University Service (WUS); the Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services; as well as Honorary Member of the Centre of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Durham, and the Union of Writers of Egypt.

His Highness is the recipient of numerous awards and medals including The Sheikh Zayed Book Award's Cultural Personality of the Year 2010; the Gold Medal from the Union of Arab Universities; Jordan; the Gold Medal from Yerevan University, Armenia; the Human Rights Medal and the Avicenna Gold Medal from UNESCO; the Gold Medal from the Arab League Education Science and Culture Organization (ALESCO), Tunis; the Gold Medal from the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Morocco; the Gold Medal from the Research Centre for Islamic History Art and Culture, Institute of Research in Islamic History, Arts and Culture, Turkey; Distinguished Personality of the Year Award by the Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Award for 2008; the Princess Fatima Ismail Distinguished Award from Cairo University; the Distinction Trophy from the International Arab Theatre Organization; Founding Member of the University of Exeter's College of Benefactors from Exeter University, UK; Member of the Companion of the Guild of Cambridge Benefactors from Cambridge University; Order of Merit from the Republic of Senegal; Distinguished Personality of the Year from Al Qareen 10th Cultural Festival, Kuwait; Honorary Member of the National Geographic Society, USA; Republic Order in Arts of the class of a Knight, Republic of France; the Distinction Award from the King Faisal International Islamic Award, Saudi Arabia; Honorary Fellowship from the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Durham, UK; and the Academic Excellence Award from the Sheikh Rashid Al-Maktoum Award, UAE; among others.

His Highness has authored a number of important scholarly texts as well as plays, which have been translated in English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Urdu, Persian among other languages. Some of these include Muscat and other Forts on the Shoreline of the Gulf of Oman; Sharjah Air Station between the East and West; The Genesis of the Scout Movement in Sharjah; Deep-Seated Malice; A Memorandum for Historians on the innocence of IbnMajid; Power Struggles and Trade in the Gulf (1620-1820); The Gulf in Historic Maps (1478-1861); The Rebel Prince; The Gulf in Historic Maps (1493-1931); The White Sheikh; The Journals of David Seton in the Gulf, 1800-1809; John Malcolm and the British Commercial Base in the Gulf 1800; British Occupation of Aden; Division of the Omani Empire (1856-1862); The Myth of Arab Piracy in the Gulf; Samson; Nimrod; Alexander the Great; The Reality, Identical Copy of the Original; The Case; and The Return of Holako; among many others.
Welcome to the American University of Sharjah. I first wish to thank the Arab International Women’s Forum for the opportunity to work together to find ways to include women and young workers more fully in the private sector as the way forward. AIWF’s networking of women entrepreneurs for our national development is more than timely. Many deem it as a necessary step. The women entrepreneurs at this conference room are proof that women are doers and achievers, thinkers and innovators, leaders, and problem-solvers. And we need each and every one of you to lend your entrepreneurial skills and energy to meeting the current economic challenges. Promoting women’s entrepreneurship seeds broader and deeper economic progress. There isn’t any way we can increase prosperity and stability throughout the region unless women are full partners in the community, the country, the region, and in the world economy. How quickly we innovate and how intelligently we use innovations will decide how efficiently we compete and how viable we will be in competing with the nations that have been industrialized for longer periods of time.

The Gulf countries have created impressive programs to create skills and place young workers in the private sector. The preamble of our AIWF conference today calls for building stronger, more economically viable communities through greater inclusion of all social sectors, though especially women. Talent is universal, but opportunity is not. Women are still saddled with unfair and untrue assumptions that they are less capable of starting and running businesses. We are prying open the doors of opportunity for more people to walk through. Making women a focus of national policy is not only the right thing to do -- it is also the smart thing as well. It is crucial that women and youth are given the essential tools; training and hands-on-experience that will ensure that they are workforce-ready. Plenary sessions today will explore the importance of education, leadership training, capacity building, and self-development for our young globally minded citizens, who will be the ones to transition our respective economies from “emerging” to “fully emerged.”

I wish to emphasize the transformative leadership role that women will play over the next few decades — as entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders in politics, culture, and academia. The AIWF has long recognized the need to cultivate more female business leaders and at all managerial levels. I note that AUS is especially equipped to achieve this goal as a global institution that was founded as the first co-educational and co-residential university in the Gulf. AUS is committed to developing the careers of women at all levels — from senior administrators, to middle managers, to those just starting out with the University. There are a growing number of women in all tiers of the AUS administration, and on our board of Trustees. The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs has a successful program in placing young women and men with suitable companies. The UAE and the region are certainly on a journey — and we are getting better as we are getting stronger. Thus, creating a climate that promotes women's success demonstrates business acumen.

The AIWF conference will explore how women can turn their entrepreneurial dreams and innovations into successful businesses that generate income for themselves and their families, create jobs, expand markets, and fuel progress in their communities. Public-private partnerships can make use of a reservoir of untapped potential. By creating networks of support, we can build locally driven and locally supported organizations that do bring about lasting change.

Our aim is to unleash the potential of Arab women entrepreneurs and business leaders. When you leave here after two days of intensive deliberation, I hope you will carry with you expanded networks to use with your skill and energy, to contribute to the growth and progress of your communities.
Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani MA, Economics
Founder & Chairman Arab International Women’s Forum

Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani is Founder and Chairman of The Arab International Women's Forum and well known in international government and business circles as a high-impact change agent focusing on leadership in cultural and gender issues.

An economist and graduate of the American University of Beirut and Oxford University, 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.

Mrs Al Kaylani holds senior roles in several organisations in the UK and internationally as well as seats on the boards of cultural, educational institutions and NGO’s. She is Vice President International of The Women's Leadership Board at Harvard University. Mrs Al Kaylani serves as Advisory Board Member of Middle East Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and Advisory Board Member, Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Lebanese American University, Beirut and in April 2012 became the first Honorary Member of the Euro Mediterranean Association for Cooperation and Development. She serves as a Freeman and Liveryman of the City of London.

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. Mrs Al Kaylani has been named recipient of the 2008 World of Difference Lifetime Achievement Award presented by The International Alliance for Women. In 2009 Mrs Al Kaylani was named one of the 20 leading Muslim women in the UK when The Equality & Human Rights Commission announced The Muslim Women Power List 2009 and in both 2011 and 2012, named one of the hundred most powerful women in the Arab World on the Power 100 List, compiled by Arabian Business Monitor.
Dr Peter Heath  
Chancellor, American University of Sharjah

Dr Heath received his BA, Magna Cum Laude, from Princeton University and his PhD in Near Eastern Language and Civilisation from Harvard University. His first appointment was to the faculty of Birzeit University on the West Bank in Palestine.

In 1988 he returned to the United States where he achieved a distinguished record at one of America's leading institutions, Washington University in St Louis. He became a full professor of Arabic Language and Literature, Director of the Centre for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilisations, and Chair of the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages.

In 1998 he was called to the American University of Beirut as Provost where he has played a leading role in the rebuilding of that distinguished institution. As second officer of the administration, his scope of duties included every aspect of university leadership.

Dr Heath was appointed Chancellor and Professor of Arabic at the American University of Sharjah in 2008. He has remained active as a scholar throughout his career. He is the author of many publications including books, book reviews, as well as of some thirty articles in refereed professional journals in addition to more occasional writings.

Dr Heath speaks Arabic and Danish and reads Persian, Turkish, French and German.
Mr Ahmed Mohammed Al Midfa  
Chairman of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
& Chairman of Sharjah Expo Centre, UAE

Mr Mohammed Al Midfa has held the position of Chairman of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Chairman of Sharjah Expo Centre since 1997 and holds many other current senior positions:

Board Member of the UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry from 1997  
Vice President of Arab Federation of Leather Industries from 1998  
Chairman of the newly formed International Association of Exposition Management (IAEM), Arabian Gulf Chapter  
Member of the Arab delegation on the Board of the Joint Portuguese-Arab Chamber of Commerce  
Member of the Arab delegation on the Board of the German-Arab Chamber of Commerce  
Member of the Arab delegation on the Board of the National US-Arab Chamber of Commerce  
Member of the Arab delegation on the Board of the Italian-Arab Chamber of Commerce  
Member of the Egyptian-UAE Business Council  
Member of the Tunisian-UAE Business Council  
Member of the Oman-UAE Business Council  
Board Member of the Arab Federation for Protection of Intellectual Property Rights  
Co-Chairman of Joint UAE-Germany Business Council  
Chairman of Ruwad Establishment at Sharjah  
Board Member of UK-UAE CEO Forum  
Board Member of the UAE National Qualifications Authority

Mr Al Midfa is a businessman with private investments.
Mrs Barakat has been deeply involved in public service; during 2010-2011, Mrs Barakat served as the Minister of Public Sector Development, and prior to that, she was the Managing Director of the National Aid Fund, and a Council Member at the Greater Amman Municipality. During 1990-2002 she was the Director of the Competitiveness Unit at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Mrs Barakat also held several positions in the private sector; she was the Lead of the Enhancing Productivity Component at (Economic Development Program) SABEQ; a USAID funded Program, and previously held the position of the Manager of the Policy Support and Institutional Strengthening Component at EJADA; an EU funded program.

Mrs Barakat is currently a Board Member at the Business and Professional Women Association (BPWA), and was a member at the board of the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) and a member at the board of the National Fund for Enterprise Support (NAFES), and a founding member of the Jordan Corporate Governance and the Competition Associations. Moreover, Mrs Barakat has been a member in a variety of task force Committees such as the National Agenda Investment Task Force. In 2005, Mrs Nesreen founded “To Excel Consulting and Associates” a company for providing consulting services related to economic, administrative and local development studies.

Mrs Barakat holds an MBA degree from the Business School at Durham University in the UK, and a BSc degree in Computer Science from the University of Jordan. Mrs Barakat also received intensive international training at Harvard and Berkeley Universities on enhancing the competitiveness of nations, scenario planning, strategy development and implementation.
Guest Speakers
(In Order of Session)

Ms Noura Al Noman
Chairperson, Sharjah Supreme Council on Family Affairs, Sharjah, UAE

Noura Al Noman is the Director General of Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher Al Qassimi’s Executive Office since 2002 and has worked with Her Highness in different capacities for the past fifteen years.

She serves as the Chairperson on the board of Al Qassimi Hospital and is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Sharjah Ladies Club. She completed her Bachelors’ in English Literature from Al Ain university in 1986 and went on to complete her Master’s in Translation from the American University of Sharjah in 2004.

Noura is an accomplished author of children's books and has just finished her first Science Fiction novel for young adults in Arabic, due for publication this year. Last but not the least, Noura is a wife and mother who has her children and husband supporting her very challenging and demanding career.

Ms Emma Bonino
Vice President, the Italian Senate, Italy

Since her election to the Italian Chamber of Deputies in 1976, Emma Bonino has had a long and productive career working for human rights. From 2001 through 2004, Emma Bonino was a visiting professor in Cairo supporting humanitarian issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Working with the government of Yemen and the NGO No Peace Without Justice, Emma Bonino helped organise the Sana’a Regional Conference to inspire democracy in the Middle East and North Africa. Emma Bonino has also campaigned for the ratification of the Maputo Protocol on Women’s Rights in Africa and the abandonment of female genital mutilation.

HE Ambassador Birgitta Holst Alani
Director, Swedish Institute of Alexandria, Egypt

Her Excellency’s tenure as Director of the Swedish Institute of Alexandria began in 2010 after a long and varied diplomatic career focusing mainly on the Middle East and North Africa. From 1979 to 1982, Her Excellency was Assistant to the Commercial Attache at the Embassy of Sweden in Baghdad, followed by junior posts at the Ministry in Sweden. From 1985 to 1989, she held the post of Secretary at the Embassy of Sweden in Egypt, then Acting Counsellor at the Embassy of Sweden in Jordan.

Her Excellency was Deputy Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute from 1998 until 2002 when appointed Ambassador to Nigeria, with accreditation for Ghana, Benin, Togo and Niger.

From 2005 to 2008, she became Ambassador, within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to the Middle East and North Africa Department.

In 2008 and 2009 Ambassador Holst Alani held posts as Advisor to the Deputy Special Representative and to the Special Representative respectively of the UN Secretary General to the UN Assistance Mission to Iraq. In 2010 she was the Senior Reconciliation Expert at the United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq in Baghdad.

A graduate of Lund University, HE Ambassador Holst Alani did postgraduate studies in Arabic at Gothenburg University before lecturing in English Language at Baghdad University. She conducted field research in Arabic linguistics in Iraq and then studied law and political science in Sweden. Her Excellency speaks Swedish, English, Arabic with knowledge of French and German.
Guest Speakers

(In Order of Session)

**HE Dr Ahmed Luqman**
Director General of Arab Labour Organisation, Egypt

Dr Ahmed Luqman began his career in his native country, the Republic of Yemen, as Head of the Registration Department and Examinations Manager for Sana’a University for the period 1974 to 1976. In 1976 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, Labour and Youth, which position he held until 1980.

His Excellency then held the post of Minister within the Yemen government from 1980 to 1993 in a number of departments: municipalities and housing, then labour and social affairs, youth and sport and in social insurance and social affairs.

In 1994, he was appointed Yemen’s Ambassador to Egypt and permanent representative for the Arab League until 2001. From 2002 to 2003, he became Head of the General Authority of Free Zones.

Dr Ahmed Luqman headed a large number of committees and associations, including the Olympic Committee, the Association of Boy Scouts and Guides, The Peace Council and Yemen Solidarity, The Environment Protection Council, The Yemenese Council of Maternity and Childhood, The Board of Directors of the General Authority of Insurance and Pensions.

Dr Luqman contributed to the founding of Arab ministerial councils and was elected member to the first executive office of the Cabinet of Arab Youth and Sport, the Cabinet of Arab Social Affairs and the Cabinet of Arab Housing.

Elected as a member of the executive of the Arab association for sports activities year 1982, he was selected as president for countries delegations at the annual meeting of the Arab Labour Organisation for the years 1989 and 1990 consecutively, and has participated at annual meetings of The International Labour Organisation since 1977.

Dr Luqman headed the Yemenese delegations participating in numerous Arab, Regional and International meetings from 1976 to 1993 on: Social Affairs, Refugees Aid, Environment, Human Settlements, ALO and ILO, Welfare and Youth and Sport.

Dr Luqman was awarded the Oman Second-Class Civil Medal from His Highness Sultan Qabous Bin Said in February 2012.

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**Ms Caroline Freund**
Chief Economist MENA, The World Bank, USA

Caroline Freund is the Chief Economist in the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank. Ms. Freund has also worked at the IMF and the Federal Reserve Board. Ms. Freund has worked on economic growth, international trade, and international finance. Her work covers the developing world and transition countries. Ms. Freund is the author of numerous academic and policy papers on international trade, development, and current account adjustment. Her work has appeared in journals such as the American Economic Review, the Quarterly Journal of Economics and the Journal of International Economics. Ms. Freund holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University.
Dr. Shaikha Al Maskari, Chairperson, Al Maskari Holding and Tricon Group, Chairperson Johnson Controls & Global Communications, JCGC, UAE

Shaikha Al Maskari began her career with ADNOC Group and in 1989 joined her family oil and gas company in Abu Dhabi, Tricon Energy Operations, which she steered to become the Tricon Group. In 2008 Al Maskari Holding, AMH, was formed as an umbrella organisation for all her family enterprises. AMH companies are engaged in oil, gas and oil field services, renewable energy, mining, food services, health care, general contracting, integrated property management, security, media, exhibition and event management, with international subsidiaries.

Presently, Shaikha Al Maskari serves as the Chairperson of: Al Maskari Holding, the Tricon Group, Johnson Control & Global Communication, JCGC, Global Communications and Learning Network Corporation, GCLN, and Emirates & Al Maskari Holdings, E&AMH. Shaikha also serves as Board Director of AMH's Singapore based companies: Singex Global (ME) Pte Ltd, Global Reach Pte Ltd, GR Vision Pte Ltd, and Avici Capital Pte Ltd. Shaikha’s Board directorships include several non-profit institutions including: Women for Sustainable Growth (W4SG), Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum (E-S FF), recently, Arab International Women’s Forum, AIWF, and Advisory Board member of Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADAMF) since its inception, and Mosaica Schools.

Shaikha advocates inter-faith, cross-cultural understanding and environmental conservation. In 1993, she founded the United Mercy Foundation, UMF, (presently managed as the philanthropy arm of AMH), which sponsors orphans and emergency relief in ME, India, Africa (with an orphanage in Kerala). In 2006 Shaikha co-founded the Diyarbakir Micro-credit Project (Grameen Bank) in Turkey, which has successfully launched over 39,000 entrepreneurs. In 2010 Shaikha launched Global Environmental Responsibility Alliance, GERA, to promote resources sustainability. Shaikha also advocates cross border partnerships with an initiative for strategic cooperation platforms: the Indo-Arab Cooperation Accord, IACA, and the Middle East Nordic Cooperation Accord, MENOCA.

Mrs. Nicola Ehlermann-Cache
Senior Administrator for MENA-OECD Investment Programme
OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, France

Mrs. Nicola Ehlermann-Cache is a Senior Administrator for the MENA-OECD Investment Programme in the Private Sector Development Division of the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs. She manages the MENA-OECD Women’s Business Network (WBF), an inter-regional network supporting women’s employment and entrepreneurship by encouraging targeted enterprise policies, business support services and financing initiatives. She ensures that women from the MENA region have a voice in the policy dialogue, access to international policy fora and networks. To compensate for the scarcity of internationally comparable data on MENA economies, she works towards ensuring that the WBF disseminates good practices and shares concrete, innovative and timely solutions with stakeholders from the region. She simultaneously manages the “Strengthening Integrity in Business in Arab Countries” (SIBAC) Programme.

Mrs. Nicola Ehlermann-Cache has written a number of documents for the WBF and has drafted chapters on anti-corruption and human capital development for the OECD Business Climate Development Strategy for both Egypt (2011) and Morocco (forthcoming) and contributed to publications on strengthening investment and governance reform in Iraq.

Before joining the MENA-OECD Investment Programme, Mrs. Nicola Ehlermann-Cache worked in the Anti-Corruption Division of the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs and was responsible for setting up assistance programmes relating to legal and institutional anti-corruption and private governance reforms in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe.

Mrs. Ehlermann-Cache is German and holds a Masters Degree in International Economics and Finance from the Panthéon-Sorbonne.
Dr Nasser H Saidi
Chief Economist of the DIFC & Executive Director of the Hawkamah-Institute for Corporate Governance, UAE

Dr Nasser H Saidi is the Chief Economist of Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) since 2006. He leads the links with governments, central banks, and international organisations. Dr Saidi is also the Executive Director of the Hawkamah-Institute for Corporate Governance and The Mudara Institute of Directors at the DIFC.

Dr Saidi is a member of the IMF’s Regional Advisory Group for MENA and Co-Chair of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD) MENA Corporate Governance Working Group. He is a member of the Private Sector Advisory Group of the Global Corporate Governance Forum, an institution of the World Bank driving global corporate governance reforms. He is also Chair of the regional Clean Energy Business Council.

In 2011, he was named among the 50 most influential Arabs in the World by The Middle East magazine, for the third consecutive year.

Dr Saidi was the Minister of Economy and Trade and Minister of Industry of Lebanon between 1998 and 2000. He was the first Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon for two successive mandates, 1993-1998 and 1998-2003. He was a Member of the UN Committee for Development Policy (UNCDP) for two mandates over the period 2000-2006, a position to which he was appointed by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in his personal capacity.

He has written a number of books and numerous publications addressing macroeconomic, capital market development and international economic issues in Lebanon and the region and is the author of “Corporate Governance in the MENA countries: Improving Transparency & Disclosure”. His research interests include macroeconomics, financial market development, payment systems and international economic policy, and information and communication technology (ICT).

Dr Saidi was a private banker and served as an economic adviser and director to a number of central banks and financial institutions in Arab countries, Europe and Central and Latin America. Prior to his public career, Dr Nasser pursued a career as an academic, serving as a Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics in the University of Chicago, the Institut Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales (Geneva, CH), and the Université de Genève. He also served as a lecturer at the American University of Beirut and the Université St. Joseph in Beirut.

Dr Saidi holds a PhD and a MA in Economics from the University of Rochester in the USA, a MSc from University College, London University and a BA from the American University of Beirut.

Mr Ron Bruder
Founder Chairman, Education for Employment Foundation (EFE), USA

Ron Bruder is the Founder and Chair of Education for Employment (EFE), a network of nonprofits committed to creating employment opportunities for youth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). A social franchise of independent, locally-run affiliates, EFE identifies critical skill gaps in the local economy, then develops and delivers targeted training programs for youth with limited opportunity. Graduates are linked to jobs through partnerships with employers, civic and educational organizations. After graduating its first class in 2006 EFE expanded rapidly, with independent affiliates in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen, and sister support organizations in the US and Spain.

Honoured by TIME Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People for his nonprofit work with EFE, Mr Bruder began as a serial entrepreneur. In 1977, Ron Bruder founded The Brookhill Group, which owns and manages properties throughout the US with a focus on creating investment partnerships to develop or redevelop shopping centres, office buildings and multi-family homes.

Mr Bruder was an attendee at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He has served as a delegate of the Council on Foreign Relations to the Jeddah Economic Forum, and a contributor to the US-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar.

Ron Bruder earned his Bachelors degree from Adelphi University, a MBA from New York University, and a Post Master's degree in Accounting & Taxation from Iona College.
Guest Speakers
(In Order of Session)

Ms Sari Bermudez
CEO Inter American Culture & Development Foundation, (ICDF), USA

Sari Bermúdez is the Chief Executive Officer at the Inter-American Cultural and Development Foundation, the cultural arm of the Inter-American Development Bank, the most important multilateral financial institution in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Washington, DC.

From 2000 to 2006, with President Vicente Fox, she became the President of the National Council for Culture and the Arts of Mexico (Minister of Culture). During her tenure, she implemented the latest technologies in Mexico’s public libraries, built the new Public Central Library, the National Phonoteque, Five Universities for the Arts, three grand Cultural Centres, and eight new art museums.

Ms Bermúdez has given lectures on cultural policy in universities such as The London School of Economics and the John F. Kennedy Center at Harvard University, and is the recipient of France’s Legion of Honour, The Medal for Cultural Merit from Chile, Germany, Brazil, and the Medal for Civil Merit from Sweden and Spain. She is also the recipient of The 1995 National Journalism Award, the most important of its kind awarded in Mexico.

Professor Jean-Pierre Lehmann
Professor of International Political Economy, IMD, Lausanne, Switzerland

Jean-Pierre Lehmann was appointed Professor of International Political Economy at IMD, Lausanne in 1997 and is concurrently Founding Director of the Evian Group, Senior Fellow at the Fung Global Institute in Hong Kong, and Visiting Professor, Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Hong Kong.

Dr Lehmann founded the Evian Group in 1995, an international coalition of corporate, government and opinion leaders, united by a common vision of enhancing global prosperity by fostering an open, inclusive, sustainable and equitable global market economy in a rules-based multilateral framework.

His doctoral thesis was on Japanese history and technology transfer during the period of transformation in the mid-late 19th century. He has spent most of his professional life working in and on East and South Asia. In the course of the last decade, he has also become actively involved in projects in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

He acts in various leading capacities in a number of global public policy institutions, as an adviser to governments and corporations, on the editorial board of various journals, and as a frequent commentator in the international media. He is the author of several books and numerous articles, his latest book, co-edited with his son, is Peace and Prosperity through World Trade: Meeting the 2019 Challenge.

Jean-Pierre Lehmann obtained a BSc in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 1966 and his PhD at Oxford University in 1976.

Ms Dana Al Fardan
Vice President, Al Fardan Group of Companies, Qatar

Ms. Dana Al Fardan is an International Studies degree holder from the American University of Sharjah (AUS). After graduating from AUS, she obtained a Gemology degree from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). She spends most of her life working in jewelry. She began her career as a Sales Manager in one of the branches of Al Fardan Jewelry. She then transitioned to be the Marketing Director of Al Fardan Hospitality, during which she spent a lot of time trying to cultivate/organize art-related events. She currently serves as the Vice Chairman of Danat Qatar, a real estate and property development organization.
Dr Afnan Al-Shuaiby
Secretary General & CEO, The Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, UK

Since her appointment as Secretary-General and Chief Executive of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce in 2007, Dr Afnan Al-Shuaiby has excelled in her efforts to promote trade between Britain and the Arab World.

Previously, Dr Al-Shuaiby worked as Advisor to the President of the US Saudi Arabian Business Council in Washington DC.

Dr Al-Shuaiby was educated at King Saud University in Riyadh graduating with a degree in English Literature, and went on to complete a Masters of Art in Educational Administration at the American University in Washington DC. She holds a PhD from the George Washington University in Washington DC, in Leadership Administration. She also holds a certificate in Peace and Conflict Resolution from the School of International Service at the American University Washington DC. and has a certificate in Executive Education from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Dr Al-Shuaiby was named ‘Diplomat of the Year’ for the Middle East 2011 and received the Diplomat Award, recognising her distinguished achievements as a foreign diplomat in London. She has also received the 2011 TIAW World of Difference 100 Award by selection by The International Alliance for Women (TIAW).

In the past, her career included running a small business, as well as holding appointments as Director (Government Affairs and Business Development) with an American Firm. Dr Al-Shuaiby also worked as Assistant Advisor to the Abu Dhabi Investment Agency (ADIA) in Washington. She holds the notion of education dear to her, and has worked in education in Saudi Arabia.

Dr Al-Shuaiby is a Board Member of Arab International Women’s Forum.

Ms Ameera Binkaram
Chairperson, Executive Committee, Sharjah Business Women Council, UAE

Ameera Abdelrahim Binkaram is currently Chairperson of Sharjah Business Women Council, President of Friends of Cancer Patients Society and a member of the Board of the Gulf Cancer Federation based in Kuwait. She is a founding and advisory member of the Board of Trustees of Sharjah Tatweer Forum and a newly elected member of the UAE Genes Association. She initiated the Annual Women’s Leadership & Technology Conference 2010, held in collaboration with MEPI, the American University of Sharjah and Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Ameera started her career as the General Manager of Sharjah Ladies Club, a government initiative to empower modern woman to achieve her aspirations. During her tenure, Ameera worked to develop general health and sport awareness and to nurture creative talents amongst women and children. She later joined her family business in 1997 as Director of Human Resources Management, looking after over 2000 employees in the UAE based Binkaram Group of Companies and has risen to the position of Vice President. Here, Ameera has introduced contemporary HQSSE practices in accordance with ISO 9001, 14000 and 18000. She has channelled the corporate social responsibility programmes of the group into supporting welfare, charity and environmental activities within the UAE and outside.

A graduate from the Higher Colleges of Technology with a Higher Diploma in Communication Technology, Ameera is an ardent advocate of women’s economic activity. She provides strategic and operational leadership to many organisations dedicated to social and women’s causes.
Guest Speakers
(In Order of Session)

HE Ms Khuloud Al Nuwais
Chief Sustainability Officer, Emirates Foundation, UAE

Khuloud Al Nuwais is Chief Sustainability Officer at Emirates Foundation, responsible for three functions: monitoring, impact assessment and aggregation of the socio-economic developmental impact of Emirates Foundation in relation to the core mission; reputation management of the organization (including internal and external communications, stakeholder engagement, media relations, social media, issues management and crisis management) and research & advocacy to build upon the authoritative capacity of the organization in the field of UAE/regional sustainable development and influencing relevant policy forums/dialogue.

Named among the ‘Top 20 Most Influential Women in the UAE’ by the Abu Dhabi-based English-language newspaper ‘The National’ (2008), she is a former Board Member of the Abu Dhabi Tawteen Council that spearheads the government’s efforts in building a sustainable Emirati workforce.

Ms Al Nuwais has over 15 years’ experience in the private sector and philanthropy. Credited with playing a pivotal role in creating the Emirates Foundation in 2005, her achievements include setting up an Emiratis Empowerment program for Emirati youth (Tawteen) now known as “Kafa’at” that aims at empowering young Emiratis to pursue career paths in private sector. She also led the restructuring of ‘Children without Parental Care Organization’ (Dar Zayed for Family Care) among other projects.

Previously, Ms Al Nuwais was a Senior Analyst in the Corporate Planning Department of Dolphin Energy Limited, the company supplying gas from Qatar to the UAE and was involved in finalizing gas sales to the N. Emirates. She has also served as a Market Analyst at the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Khuloud Al Nuwais holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a major in Advertising Management and Marketing from the Portland State University, US.

Ms Chiara Corazza
Managing Director, Greater Paris Management Agency, France

Chiara Corazza, of Italian and English nationality and with five languages, has a degree from the Institute of Political Science and a doctoral degree in Public Law from the University of Rome. Teaching German in Rome and working as a journalist at the “Daily American” she then became a journalist in international/economic policy at "Il Globo", the Italian daily newspaper.

In 1985, moving to France, she became President of the Greater Paris Region’s Counsellor for International Affairs and created Metropolis, a worldwide association of large metropolitan areas.

Chiara Corazza in 1992 became Director of the Department of International Affairs in the Greater Paris Region and negotiated and managed bilateral co-operation agreements with Beijing, Tokyo, Moscow, Warsaw, Hanoi, Madrid, Budapest, Montreal, Beirut, Manila, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Santiago, Johannesburg, New Delhi and Dakar.

In that role, Chiara Corazza organised a number of high level economic events in Paris and abroad. In 1994 she opened the Greater Paris office in Brussels, creating a network uniting Europe’s capital regions.

From 1995 to 1999, Chiara Corazza directed the seminar: "The Foreign Relations of Local Authorities" at the University Paris Descartes.

In 1999 she was appointed Director of International Affairs of "Paris 2008", in charge of promoting Paris’s bid for the 2008 Olympic Games and in 2002 was appointed Managing Director of the Greater Paris Investment Agency, charged with attracting foreign investors to the Paris Region.

She is a member of the Commission for the Evaluation of French Diplomas in Management, Member and Board Member of the Mena-OECD Business Council. She is a Chevalier de la Légion d‘Honneur.
Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe
Executive Chairperson, Africa Fashion International, South Africa

As the Executive Chairperson of a leading fashion company, Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe is a very high profile, influential businesswoman and philanthropist.

With degrees from Wits (MBBCH) and Stellenbosch (MSc in Women’s Health) Universities, Dr Moloi-Motsepe began her career as a general practitioner, opening one of the first women’s health clinics in Johannesburg.

From a background of apartheid, Dr Moloi-Motsepe recognised the burdens placed disproportionately on women through lack of economic opportunity and the need to encourage and develop entrepreneurs to create economic growth. It was this strong belief in entrepreneurship as a driver of economic transformation that led her into the business world.

She believes that the clothing industry can help transform the economic landscape as well as empower women, especially since the industry employs 80% women. The mission of African Fashion International is to revitalise the clothing industry on the continent by developing and promoting talented, emerging designers and encouraging them into entrepreneurship.

Dr Moloi-Motsepe has received recognition internationally for her role in developing emerging markets, has featured in various publications and broadcasts including Forbes Africa, CNBC Africa and has spoken at high profile venues such as the World Economic Forum, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and the Harvard Business School.

With her husband she chairs The Motsepe Foundation to alleviate poverty and empower communities as part of the Global Philanthropy Circle.

Dr Moloi-Motsepe serves on many boards, including the Women’s Leadership Board at Harvard Kennedy School. She has re-launched the Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative aimed at identifying and reprioritising the needs of women.

She has been appointed Gift from Africa’s "Champion” for Africa, a Global Fund Initiative to mobilise private sector support in Africa in the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.
Guest Speakers
(In Order of Session)

Mrs Nadereh Chamlou
Senior Advisor to the Chief Economist for the MENA Region of the World Bank, USA

Nadereh Chamlou has been Senior Advisor to the Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank. In her three decades with the World Bank, she has held technical, advisory, and managerial positions in economic management, private and financial sector development, infrastructure and environment, and on Latin America, East Asia and Pacific, Eastern Europe, and MENA. She co-authored a World Bank flagship report, "Corporate Governance: A Framework for Implementation," and was co-founder and Head of the World Bank/OECD-sponsored Global Corporate Governance Forum. She authored "Gender and Development in the Middle East and North Africa Region–Women in the Public Sphere," and "The Environment for Women's Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa Region." She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Tunis-based Center for Arab Women's Training and Research; a founding member of the Steering Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Gender Economic Research and Policy Analysis initiative, Chair of Friends of the Board of the Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund, and the Global Advisory Council of the Global Fund for Women and Girls. She has been an Adjunct Professor at New York University's Wagner School of Public Policy and was a member of the scientific committee of the Dutch Gender Task Force—"24orMore". She is a graduate of Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and the Graduate School for Economics.

Mr David Arkless
President, Corporate & Government Affairs, ManpowerGroup, UK

Mr David Arkless attained this position in 2008 having joined Manpower Inc. in 1992. He is a world-renowned expert on labour market trends with widespread experience of helping countries develop their labour market strategies. Responsible for governmental and international affairs, he has been called to advise the governments of China, Mexico, Vietnam and the UAE, and various mega-cities like Shanghai. He is a regular advisor to the US Department of State, and EU departments. Mr Arkless is Vice President of Ciett, the international confederation of private employment agencies. In 2010, he became Vice President of the China International Council for the Promotion of Multinational Corporations (CICPMC) in Beijing. Mr Arkless manages ManpowerGroup’s strategic relationships with high-profile organisations such as the World Economic Forum, being one of the founding members of the WEF’s Global Agenda Council on the Skills Gap. He supports partnerships with the European Policy Centre and the Clinton Global Initiative, and is an Ambassador for the UK-based Centre for Social Justice.

Mr Arkless has been an ardent campaigner to end human trafficking and is Board President of End Human Trafficking Now! He has spearheaded ManpowerGroup’s involvement in www.ninemillion.org, a UN initiative to educate the 9 million young refugees worldwide, and is a founding member of the US-based Demand Abolition Advisory Council.

Mr Arkless is an advisory board member of both the International Organization for Migration and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He is a board member of Education for Employment, the US-based foundation helping unemployed young people in the Middle East and Africa. He is a board member of the Club of The Hague. In 2011, Mr Arkless joined the advisory board of PNB-NAPEO a public-private partnership that exists to link young entrepreneurs and business leaders in the US and the Maghreb.

He is a regular speaker at such events as the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, the OECD, the UN, European Parliament, UK Parliament and House of Lords Select Committees, US Congressional and Senate committees, among others. Leading ManpowerGroup’s involvement with the United States Council on Competitiveness, Mr Arkless provides regular expert appearances in national and global media.

Mr Arkless received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Durham, UK and has completed executive programmes at INSEAD, IMD and the San Jose College of Business.
Guest Speakers
(In Order of Session)

Professor Yomn Mohamed Hafeez El Hamaki
Head of Economics Department, Faculty of Commerce,
Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

Professor Yomn El Hamaki has a BSc in Accountancy, an MSc in Economics and a Ph.D in Economics from Ain Shams University, Cairo.

Positions held by Professor El Hamaki include, among many others, membership of the El Shoura Council from 1997 to 2011 on the Committee of Economics; Chair of the Economic Department Faculty of Commerce at Ain Shams University and membership of the Education, Training and Scientific Research Committee of the National Council of Women.

Professor El Hamaki has conducted feasibility studies for the private sector; a study held by the Egyptian Council for small industries in Egypt; training programmes for the Central Egyptian Bank on economic development in Egypt; organised conferences on the role of Egyptian Women in Development, the role of the banking sector in enhancing exports and the impact of liberalisation of trade in services in the banking and transportation sectors.

Professor El Hamaki has conducted copious research on international economic relations and developing economies and the role of women in development, much of which has been published.

Lecturing under-graduate and post-graduate students in advanced economics and fiscal policy, Professor El Hamaki speaks Arabic, English and French.

Mr Amir Dossal
Founder Chairman, Global Partnerships Forum, USA

Amir Dossal is Founder and Chairman of the Global Partnerships Forum, an international platform to address economic and social challenges, through innovative partnerships. He is also the Co-Initiator of the Pearl Initiative, a CEO-led programme, promoting transparency and accountability in the Gulf Region.

Amir is Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union for Global Partnerships and serves as Commissioner of the Broadband Commission. He is Special Adviser to the Chief Information Technology Officer of the United Nations.

Prior to creating the Global Partnerships Forum, he was Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships, and served as the UN’s Chief Liaison for Partnerships and focal point for the partnership with media mogul Ted Turner to manage the $1 billion gift to the UN. In that capacity, he forged strategic alliances with governments, corporations, foundations, and philanthropists uniting these partners to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

As the primary interface for the UN Foundation, Amir successfully attracted new investments of over $560 million from various donors, which supported over 450 international projects for women and children’s health, climate change and bio-diversity. Amir also oversaw management of the UN Democracy Fund, which he established in 2005 to strengthen democratic institutions and enhance governance in new and restored democracies.

Amir Dossal works globally across all sectors, including Health, Education, Environment, Peace, Security, and Human Rights. He has built complex, crucial alliances between governments, multilateral agencies, business groups, foundations and civil society.

In October 2010, he received the Humanitarian Award from the United Nations Association of New York, for his accomplishments in Partnerships to End Poverty and World Hunger.

In 2010, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco appointed him Ambassador for Peace and Sport. In 2011, Amir was appointed Special Envoy to the World Youth Peace Summit.

Amir trained as a Chartered Accountant (FCA), London in 1975. Prior to joining the United Nations in 1985, he worked in the private sector for over 15 years.
HE Mrs Tahani Abu Daqqa  
Youth Development & Civil Society Institutional Building Specialist, Palestine

Former Minister of Youth and Culture with the Palestinian National Authority, Tahani has more than twenty years of experience in designing and implementing socio-economic municipal development projects, promoting active and inclusive community participation, capacity building and strengthening institutional support to civil society organisations; she is also an expert in developing youth leadership, advocating for women’s empowerment and has an excellent track record in establishing active neighbourhood committees.

She holds an MBA and has completed post graduate training programmes in youth and women’s leadership.

Ms Conny Czymoch  
Host, Phoenix (TV), Moderator, Journalist, Media Coach, Germany

Conny Czymoch hosts “Phoenix – The Day“, the flagship news and current affairs programme at Phoenix.

She has interviewed and moderated at conferences with international leaders ranging from former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to Nasa Boss Michael Griffin to German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

In February 2012 she moderated at a UN ECOSOC special session on Youth Unemployment in New York. For the last four years she worked as a moderator at the European Development Days and in 2011 she hosted the opening and closing sessions in Warsaw. Conny was, simultaneously, chief moderator and MC at the annual Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum. In January 2010 she facilitated an international conference on “Corporate Responsibility for Human Rights” with the UN Special Representative on human rights and transnational corporations. In 2009, she moderated at the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting in New York on “Leadership and Solutions to end Human Trafficking and Forced Labor”.

Also in 2009, she accompanied the UNHCR Council of Business Leaders to refugee camps in Southern Africa, reporting on the Manpower Inc. Homepage and in films, on the efforts of CBL member and Manpower President Global Affairs, David Arkless.

After studying economics and international relations at Reading University, UK, Conny returned to Cologne to train as a journalist. She worked for a year in Hong Kong before becoming a freelance radio author and reporter in Cologne, hosting a TV current affairs programme both in German and English until Phoenix was founded in 1997.

Two areas of interest have been the main focus of her work: issues of global economic and development cooperation and social integration; and creating an understanding for technological advances and future developments.

At national and international events, Conny has specialised in “translating” between politicians and “normal” people, between young and old, between top management and the shop floor.
Ms Muna AbuSulayman  
Director, Directions Consulting & Partner and Board Member, Glowork, Saudi Arabia

Ms Muna AbuSulayman is rooted in International Development and was the first Saudi female UNDP Goodwill Ambassador.

With a BA and MA in English Literature from the George Mason University, Virginia, USA and a Doctorate in English Literature from King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia gained in 2004, Muna AbuSulayman has become internationally recognised as an expert in the fields of Development, Management, Education and Communications, Islam and Entrepreneurship.

Muna was the founding Secretary General of one of the most effective international philanthropic foundations, Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundations from 2005 until 2011. She developed and successfully implemented the mission, vision and operations for both the local and global Alwaleed Foundations.

Muna currently is a Partner/Board Member of Glowork, which is the first MENA staffing and recruiting company dedicated to women. Glowork’s unique website model helps women bypass daily logistical obstacles. Glowork provides training, coaching and a mentoring service to ensure long term employment and career advancement.

Muna’s extensive media experience began as a founding co-host of the most successful Arab TV Programme, “KalamNouam” on MBC, the leading Arab Media Channel in the Middle East. Focusing on Arab social, economic, cultural, education and gender issues, the show’s social reform efforts propelled it to international renown during her tenure. Muna is considered one of the most influential Arabs in Social Media due to her interactivity on Twitter and Facebook.

Muna is a member of a prolific number of Boards and Organisations and has won numerous awards.

Ms Darein Hassan  
Africa & Middle East Diversity Lead & Senior Regulatory Leader, Pfizer Inc, UAE

Ms Hassan is a pharmaceutical regulatory affairs leader with 10 years of diversified regional Regulatory Affairs Management experience with multiple multinational companies across the Middle East and Africa.

With a BSc in Pharmacy from Alexandria University, Egypt, Ms Hassan is an Arabic native speaker with fluent English.

Her career began with Schering Pharmaceuticals, now part of Bayer Healthcare, in 2001, working in regulatory affairs, liaising with regulatory agencies across the Gulf States.

In 2006, Ms Hassan was appointed Regulatory Affairs Manager for Wyeth Consumer Healthcare – Middle East and North Africa in Dubai responsible for the regulatory affairs management of Wyeth Consumer Healthcare.

Ms Hassan was promoted to Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, Pharmaceutical, and Nutritional & Consumer Healthcare Products – MENA in 2009 with her responsibilities extended to encompass Nutritional & Pharmaceutical products. In 2010 she joined Pfizer as Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager – Middle East Region in the Africa Middle East Office in Dubai heading the regulatory responsibility of Wyeth Pharmaceutical products. With her role expanded to cover the entire Pfizer portfolio of products, she was appointed as Regulatory Strategy Head – Middle East Region in 2010.

From 2011 to date, Ms Hassan has been working as Africa Middle East Regulatory Hub Director for Pfizer in Dubai with her responsibility extended to Africa.

Darein has been representing the industry in various regulatory trade associations in the region and has been participating in developing an industry association for Over the Counter products and infant formulas in the Middle East and is also an active member in the Middle East Regulatory Network.

Darein Hassan has been selected to head the AfME Pfizer’s Women’s Council.
Mr Abdullatif Al Sayegh  
Chief Executive Officer, Al Sayegh Media, UAE

Abdullatif Al-Sayegh is one of the Arab world’s most distinguished media pioneers. After completing his Media and Communications degree at the University of Tampa, Florida, he joined the Government of Dubai and established one of the UAE’s largest media corporates - and the most diverse in the region.

He was specially selected by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to build and manage a gigantic portfolio of media assets for the Government of Dubai. This included 3 daily newspapers, 8 radio stations, the region’s largest printing press, the region’s biggest distribution company, an outdoor advertising company, the UAE’s most active event management company and 3 major TV stations (including MTV and Nickelodeon), among many other ground-breaking projects.

Seeking a greater challenge, in early 2010 he entered the more thrilling world of digital and social media. He created his own organization (Alsayegh Media) which serves the entire region with unique world-class services like website development, mobile application development, social media management, SEM services, event management, videography and photography, branding and marketing, media planning/buying as well as media consultancy.

Currently, Alsayegh Media is engaged to deliver various projects for some of the biggest and most prestigious brands in the government and private sector.

In 2007, Abdullatif Alsayegh was recognised as ‘CEO of the Year’ by the CEO World Forum. In 2008, he was awarded the accolade of being one of the ‘Top 25 Most Influential Personalities in the Arab World’, by The Times newspaper.

Ms Noha Hefny, External Communication & CSR Manager, PepsiCo Asia, Middle East & Africa, UAE

Noha Hefny is the External Communication & CSR Manager for Asia, Middle East & Africa Sector comprising all PepsiCo food and beverage businesses in the region. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a specialization in International Relations and a minor in Philosophy from the American University in Cairo (AUC).

She has more than 11 years of international experience in the public and private sector in the field of corporate communications and public affairs.

Noha is heading the external communications for the PepsiCo Asia, Middle East & Africa sector at headquarters level and is responsible for leading the regional implementation of PepsiCo’s social responsibility and sustainability strategy and initiatives.

One of Noha’s key roles is activating and driving PepsiCo’s Performance with Purpose agenda – a commitment to achieving financial success while leaving a positive imprint on society. Key accomplishments in this agenda include her leadership and oversight of PepsiCo’s Tomooh (“Ambitions”) program in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, which empowers Arab youth through education achieving multiple successes since her tenure. She has been a key driver of PepsiCo’s partnership with the Arab International Women’s Forum (AIWF), an NGO working to advance professional development for women in the Arab world and various other initiatives. She is also driving visibility for PepsiCo through her strategic leadership of media relations and engagement with key stakeholders of relevance to PepsiCo.

Noha joined PepsiCo in September 2008 as an Internal Communications Manager for South Asia Middle East & Africa Region. She then moved on to a broader role of AMEA Communications Manager, covering internal and external communications as well as CSR.

Prior to joining PepsiCo, Noha worked in the field of PR & Communications at the Middle East Affiliate of Fleishman Hilliard International, TRACCS PR. Prior to that, she had a shining international career with the United Nations with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She also worked for the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a Consultant based in Egypt. Her experience in the UN is all in public affairs and public policy communication. She is also the author of the Regional Communication strategy for the American University in Cairo (AUC)-Egypt John Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement.
Ms Tala Al-Hejailan  
Legal Consultant, DLA Piper Middle East LLP, Saudi Arabia

Tala Al-Hejailan is a corporate, commercial and employment lawyer with DLA Piper and is the main point of contact for DLA Piper Saudi Arabia’s efforts in CSR related activities. Of Saudi nationality, Tala has experience in Saudi law matters including employment and commercial contracts: agency, distribution and franchise agreements. Before joining the DLA Piper team, Tala undertook several legal based internships including a course on advocacy and NGOs. On the side, Tala runs a local Saudi charity, Helping Hands, of which she was the co-founder and she supports Human Rights causes. 

Tala’s education was as follows: L.P.C: Diploma in Legal Practice Course (Commendation), The College of Law, London, UK; French Law (ERASMUS Program), Université Paris X Nanterre, Paris, France; LL.B. (Hons) Law, University of Westminster, London, UK; Foundation Course in International Law and World Literature, SOAS, University of London, UK and she speaks Arabic, English and French. 

She began her professional experience in June 2005 as a legal volunteer for three years with Camden Victim Support in London while studying law. In 2009, she became a trainee lawyer at the Attayyar Law Firm in association with Alem & Associates, Solicitors and Barristers. From October 2010 to date, Tala has been working as Legal Consultant at DLA Piper Saudi Arabia.

Mr Nayaz Qazi  
Co-Founder & Chairman of the National Academy of Indian Payroll (NAIP), India

Nayaz is the Co-Founder and Chairman of The National Academy of Indian Payroll (NAIP), a significant professional educational body in India. NAIP is making a significant contribution to one of the largest global workforces in relation to HR and Compliance. Through Nayaz’s involvement, NAIP enjoys the support of senior government officials, industry leaders and members of academia in India and internationally, including strategic partnerships with the UK’s governing body, the Chartered Institute of Payroll Professionals (CIPP), and Al Maktoum Institute. 

Other activities include Council Membership of The Alliance of Infrastructure and Facility Management India (AIFMI), a pan India organisation providing best practice and knowledge development in facilities management.

Mr Qazi is a Council Member of the newly formed Women’s Inspired Network (WIN) which was established to help in the empowerment of women in India, professionally, economically and socially. He is Senior Partner to the Communications and Marketing Group Accord Worldwide. Nayaz is Managing Director of Further and Higher Education Consultants (FHE Consultants), undertaking the role of Senior Advisor to Academic Institutions in the UK from strategic development to quality assurance; Senior Advisor for Strategy and Qualification development to the UK’s Chartered Institute of Payroll Professionals (CIPP) and Advisory Council Member for Arts and Sciences at the American University of Sharjah (AUS).
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
Emerging Economies, Emerging领导ships: Arab Women And Youth As Drivers Of Change

Tuesday 15 May 2012
7pm – 9pm
Welcome Reception hosted by American University of Sharjah at the Dr Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi Centre of Gulf Studies, Al Darah

Registration

16 May 2012
Conference Day 1
Main Auditorium, American University of Sharjah

0800 – 0930
Registration

0930 – 1045
OPENING SESSION
In the Presence of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi Supreme Council Member, United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Sharjah, and Founder and President of the American University of Sharjah.

Welcome Remarks and Introduction
Dr Nada Mourtada Sabbah
Vice Chancellor for Development & Alumni Affairs, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Welcome Address
Dr Peter Heath
Chancellor, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Welcome and Keynote Address
“Arab Women and Youth as Drivers of Change”
Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani
Chairman, Arab International Women’s Forum

Keynote Address
HE Mrs Nesreen Barakat
Minister of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Keynote Address
Ms Noura Al Noman
Chairperson, Sharjah Supreme Council on Family Affairs, United Arab Emirates

1045 – 1115
Coffee Break

1115 – 1230
Plenary Session I
Women’s Contribution to Public Life
At a time when the world’s governments are redrafting economic strategies to restore long-term growth, and expectations for increased transparency and accountability in both the public and private sector are rising, AIWF believes that we need to respond to the aspirations of women and youth by linking economic strategy with broader plans for sustainable societal progress. Despite an increase in parliamentary representation in many MENA countries, gender barriers have prevented women from having any major impact as yet on some of the region’s key institutions. This session explores the nature of the barriers to women’s effective contribution to public life.
Moderator and Guest Speaker

Keynote Address
Ms Emma Bonino
Vice President, the Italian Senate, Italy

Keynote Address
HE Mrs Nesreen Barakat
Minister of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Keynote Address
Ambassador Birgitta Holst Alani
Director, The Swedish Institute, Alexandria, Egypt

1230 – 1400 Plenary Session II

Empowering SMEs: Economic Development and the New Arab World
For the world’s emerging economies to successfully address issues of job creation, education and capacity building, and to fully integrate into an increasingly global, interconnected and borderless economy, it is crucial that women and youth are given the essential tools, training and hands-on experience that will ensure that they are workforce-ready and able to compete with graduates from other parts of the world.

Moderator and Guest Speaker
HE Dr Ahmed Luqman
Director General, Arab Labour Organisation, Egypt

Ms Caroline Freund
Chief Economist MENA, The World Bank, USA

Dr Shaikha Al Maskari
Chairperson, Al Maskari Holding, Chairperson, Tricon Group
United Arab Emirates

Dr Nasser Saidi
Chief Economist of the DIFC & Executive Director of the Hawkamah-Institute for Corporate Governance, United Arab Emirates

Mrs Nicola Ehlermann-Cache
Senior Policy Adviser, MENA OECD Investment Programme
Private Sector Development Division, OECD, France

1400 – 1530 Luncheon

1530 – 1700 Plenary Session III

Linking Education & Stable, Sustainable Socio-Economic Development
This session will explore the importance of education, leadership training, capacity building and self-development for young global citizens, especially those in emerging economies, as a central tenet of the sustainable development process. This session will delve into the education system in the MENA in detail, talking with educators and policy-makers to find out what the real status quo might be in the region in terms of education and how it relates to job creation.

Moderator and Guest Speaker
Dr Peter Heath  
Chancellor, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Mr Ron Bruder  
Founder Chairman, Education for Employment Foundation, USA

Ms Sari Bermudez  
CEO Inter American Culture & Development Foundation, (ICDF), USA

Professor Jean-Pierre Lehmann  
Founding Director, IMD Evian Group, Switzerland

Ms Dana Al Fardan  
Vice President, Al Fardan Group of Companies, Qatar

1700 – 1715  
Close of Conference Day 1

2000  
Evening Reception and Conference Gala Dinner  
Hosted by The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Host and Guest Speaker  
Mr Ahmed Mohammed Al-Midfa  
Chairman of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, United Arab Emirates

17 May 2012  
Conference Day 2  
Main Auditorium, American University of Sharjah

0830 – 0930  
Registration

0930 – 1045  
Plenary Session IV

Innovators & Entrepreneurs in Emerging Economies: Reaching a New Level of Entrepreneurial Excellence

By garnering the support of business, government, education and civic leaders, initiatives in the Arab world are offering sustainable, results-oriented empowerment programmes, helping to identify sectors of the economy that offer solid potential for growth and job creation and, in conjunction with the private sector, creating innovative training courses that are directly linked to jobs. In this session, AIWF and global partners will discuss enablers for entrepreneurial success for young business innovators in emerging economies, drawing on the international experiences of AIWF partners, sharing best practices and models for mentorship and development programmes.

Moderator and Guest Speaker  
Dr Afnan Al-Shuaiby  
Secretary General and CEO, The Arab- British Chamber of Commerce United Kingdom

Ms Ameera Binkaram  
Chairperson, Executive Committee, Sharjah Business Women Council United Arab Emirates

HE Khuloud Al Nuwais  
Chief Sustainability Officer Emirates Foundation, United Arab Emirates

Ms Chiara Corazza  
Managing Director, Greater Paris Management Agency, France

Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe
Executive Chairman, African Fashion International (AFI), South Africa

1045 – 1115
Coffee Break

1115 – 1230
Plenary Session V

*Developing Youth: The Role of Governments & the Private Sector*
Largely thanks to the remarkable advancements in technology and media in the last decade, a growing number of young entrepreneurs in the Arab world have been inspired to launch their own SMEs in the region, with over 12 million SMEs currently operating to make up 95% of the private sector. Meanwhile, according to the ILO, the MENA is expected to face an increase in unemployment to 10.3% in 2012 from 10.2% in 2011 and over 15 million young people are expected to enter the workforce in the coming decade. The Arab world’s greatest challenge for the critical decade ahead is to counter rising unemployment and create jobs for the next generation and AIWF believes that this can best be achieved by promoting entrepreneurship, empowering young business owners and creating the best possible environment for SMEs to grow and create jobs. How can governments and the private sector work together to advance and develop young entrepreneurs? What are the future challenges that need to be addressed now?

*Moderator and Guest Speaker*
Mrs Nadereh Chamlou
Senior Advisor, Office of the Chief Economist MENA
The World Bank, USA

Mr David Arkless
President, Corporate & Government Affairs,
ManpowerGroup, United Kingdom

Professor Yomn El Hamaky
Head, Economics Department, Faculty of Commerce
Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

Mr Amir Dossal
Founder Chairman
Global Partnerships Forum, USA

HE Tahani Abu Daqqa
Former Minister of Culture & Ministry of Youth and Sport, Palestine

1230 – 1400
Plenary Session VI

*Hidden Potential: New Perspectives on the Role of Women & Youth*
As the global economy recovers from the 2008 recession, mainstreaming empowerment and economic opportunity for women and youth in the Arab world is more critical than ever for the continued development, progress and modernisation of the Arab region overall. In this session, AIWF invites prominent Arab and international female commentators, journalists and policymakers to discuss how the hidden potential of women and youth in emerging economies and societies can be uncovered to secure a better future for the next generation, looking at the role of global media in promoting positive role models and milestones; the role of the corporate sector in tapping into the wealth of Arab talent and averting ‘brain drain’; and the role of the Arab and international community in helping women in business, women policymakers and women educators in the region bring
women and youth issues to the forefront of regional discourse surrounding a sustainable and inclusive way forward for the region overall.

**Moderator and Guest Speaker**
**Ms Conny Czymoch**
International Journalist and TV Anchor “The Phoenix”, Germany

**Ms Muna AbuSulayman**
Director, Directions Consulting & Partner and Board Member, Glowork, Saudi Arabia

**Ms Darein Hassan**
Africa Middle East Diversity Lead & Senior Regulatory Leader, Pfizer Inc, United Arab Emirates

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<td>1530 – 1645</td>
<td>Plenary Session VII</td>
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**How Are Students and Young Entrepreneurs Leveraging Technology and Social Media to Promote a Sustainable Future?**
AIWF is proud to provide a forum where students and young entrepreneurs can exchange experiences and share insights into their anticipated challenges as they prepare to step out of the education system and into the workforce. In this session, we will also discuss how technology has impacted their futures and given them unprecedented access to networking, knowledge and global connectivity on a scale that would have been considered unthinkable only a decade ago. What are the challenges that need to be addressed with regard to potential young leaders entering the global workforce and the use of technology?

**Moderator and Guest Speaker**
**Mr Abdullatif Al Sayegh**
Chief Executive Officer, Al Sayegh Media, United Arab Emirates

**Ms Noha Hefny**
External Communication & CSR Manager for Asia, Middle East & Africa Sector, PepsiCo, United Arab Emirates

**Ms Tala Al-Hejailan**
Legal Consultant, DLA Piper Middle East LLP, Saudi Arabia

**Mr Nayaz Qazi**
Co-Founder and Chairman of the National Academy of Indian Payroll (NAIP), India

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<td>2030</td>
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The Arab International Women’s Forum (AIWF) established in 2001 as an independent not for profit organisation is a unique network linking Arab women with their international counterparts and serves as the voice of Arab women, showcasing their development, ability and competence in business, professional and public life, creating greater global awareness of women’s success and prospects in the Arab world.

Fulfilling its mission of *Building Bridges, Building Business*, the Arab International Women’s Forum has been an agent of change for women in the Arab region encouraging their potential to take greater leadership roles and reach higher levels of responsibility in all sectors of business, public life and in civil society while at the same time contributing to the progress and prosperity of their families and communities.

AIWF has been recognised for its vision and successful achievement of outstanding and timely initiatives, with two landmark Reports and Recommendations in 2005 and 2007, on *Women as Engines of Economic Growth in the Arab World* which set the benchmark for building and promoting its policy recommendations and strategies that have a focus on capacity building and training, economic competitiveness, sustainable human development and the empowerment of women, through partnership, increased connectivity, innovation and collaboration, for women in the Arab world.

AIWF has received international recognition in the Arab world and internationally as a powerful advocate of women in business for the advancement of women, and its growing role to promote and advance legislative rights for the participation of Arab women, has been distinguished by many collaborations with, among others, the League of Arab States, the European Commission and European Parliament, United Nations organisations and agencies, the World Bank, the OECD, women’s business councils in the Arab States and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

AIWF places great strategic importance on the development of its global networks and the establishment of key alliances with multinational corporations across all sectors. The AIWF valued Global Partners, sharing the AIWF mission, are deeply engaged in the Arab region and uphold strong diversity policies that enhance the recruitment, training and development of women as key contributors to the Arab human capital pool.

In raising awareness and strengthening its connections with global media AIWF is proud to have a special partnership with the leading communications company in the Middle East, Memac Ogilvy and from June 2007 has had a continuing relationship and cooperation with the Financial Times (FT) cooperating with the FT special reports which recognise the Arab world’s emerging women business leaders. AIWF has supported the publication of *Domains of Influence: Arab Women Business Leaders in a New Economy*, the first book of its kind and a unique testament to the impact of Arab Women in today’s global environment of entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

In 2012 and beyond, the Arab International Women’s Forum and its Partners recognise that its role is more important than ever and has widened its remit to connect women in the Arab world with women in the other emerging economies with its enhanced Programme for *Building Bridges, Building Business: Emerging Economies, Emerging Leaderships*. AIWF’s future direction will be on strengthening its focus on the importance of education, leadership training, capacity building and self development for women and youth and urging governments and the private sector to work together to achieve much needed job creation initiatives.
American University of Sharjah

American University of Sharjah (AUS) was founded in 1997 by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah. The university was envisaged by His Highness as a leading educational institution in the Gulf region. Located in University City, Sharjah, AUS is a not-for-profit, independent, institution of higher education formed on the American model.

The University offers 25 majors and 52 minors at the undergraduate level, and 13 master's degrees through the College of Architecture, Art and Design; College of Arts and Sciences; College of Engineering; and School of Business and Management. These programs are designed to meet the challenges of a competitive and dynamic business and industrial environment.

As a provider of quality higher education in the Gulf, AUS has full approval in the United States by the Department of Education of the State of Delaware. It is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. AUS is also accredited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and all undergraduate and graduate programs are recognized by the ministry. All six of the bachelor's degree programs in the AUS College of Engineering are accredited by ABET, Inc. of the United States. The Bachelor of Architecture program of the College of Architecture, Art and Design is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) of the United States. The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) as well as the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) degrees offered by the School of Business and Management are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

As a centre of excellence for learning, The American University of Sharjah is delighted to host the Arab International Women’s Forum Conference, which will provide the focus on advocacy for young people stressing how important it is for the acquisition of higher education, professional training and leadership skills, not only for their own self development but for participation within the economic, social and public life arenas within the region and internationally.

Official profile available on http://www.aus.edu/info/200124/about_aus#.T5Ame6v9O8A
Dr Sultan Al Qassimi Centre of Gulf Studies, Al Darah

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, opened the centre on 26 April 2007.

The Centre, located near the University City Hall in Sharjah, is also considered as a unique Centre in terms of the contents and includes His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi's collections, which have been built up over 25 years. It is also available for use by researchers and includes several sections:

**History of the Gulf through Maps**
This exhibition illustrates the evolution of human knowledge about the Gulf in early printed maps, starting with the Renaissance and following the growth of knowledge to the beginning of systematic survey of the inland area in the earliest years of the 20th century.

The improving quality of cartographic image reflects the evolution of contact between the Gulf and Europe, where the maps were made, and also the technical development of printing and of instruments for surveying. This section contains 170 articles divided into scientific maps, including the oldest map of the World, the map of Ptolemy, which was first printed in 1493.

**Life in the Gulf - The Gulf Countries**
A group of images of the Gulf of Oman and the beginning of the region as the first sailors arrive from the west. These pictures show the history of the Gulf, lifestyles, architecture, social life, markets and maritime activities.

**United Arab Emirates**
Included in this exhibition is a set of rare photographs from the early 20th Century, showing images of Portuguese castles and strongholds and the attack against the British. There are some rare manuscripts and books about the history of the UAE, including a book by His Highness Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi (Arab piracy myth).

**Archive Library**
The library contains rare collections of historical books which relate to the Arabian Gulf (Arabic & foreign references), some of which highlight the Gulf Region’s history. The foreign references mainly cover articles on history and various political eras during which the Gulf area was governed. It also has a complete archive system, which contains around one million and a half historical and geographical documentaries, in addition to the maps and pictures available in the galleries.

**Historical Movies Hall**
The historical movies of the Gulf, using multimedia, have become one of the most important sources of Gulf history.

**Hall of personal photographs of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi Ruler of Sharjah**
A collection of photographs of formal meetings held by His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Ruler of Sharjah with kings, queens, presidents, vice presidents, crown princes, princes from the rest of the world.
Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry was formed following an Amiri Decree issued in 1970 by His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah. Its aim has been to take part in organizing economic life and support trade, industrial and professional sectors at all levels in cooperation with other local departments in the interest of the country.

The Chamber has been keen to include nationals and expatriates as well as companies and establishments involved in these activities. It has felt the need to catch up with the economic developments of the UAE.

It was natural that change in the Chamber’s services and activities had to take place with the progress made by the country. The new Chamber law no 1 of 2003 was issued to include rules and regulations as well as legal frameworks aimed at achieving the Chamber’s objectives.

The service of the Chamber had been expanded to include all the cities of the emirate. The Chamber now has three branch offices besides the main office. The branch offices are located in Khorfakkan, Kalba, Al Dhaid and Dibba Al Hisn. There are also four offices, at the model Industrial Area and at the premises of the Department of Economic Development in Sharjah city, the SAIF Zone and at Hamriyah Free Zone.

The Chamber seeks to cooperate with government agencies and other chambers of commerce and industry in the country, which are part of the UAE Chamber. It works closely with them to facilitate contacts and cooperation with other associations at Arab and international levels with the aim of achieving the goals of the members and of seeking higher standards of functioning.

As the Chamber enters its fourth decade of operations, it feels proud of the achievements that have been realized so far. The Chamber has taken part in the organization of commercial, industrial and professional affairs and presented suggestions on economic projects and legislation having to do with all aspects of the economy, besides being a main player in the gathering of data and statistics and the study of ways to further boost economic activities.

The role of the Chamber has also been extended to protect the interests of its members and introduce them to economic players inside and outside the UAE as well as facilitating their transactions.

The transactions include attestation of certificates of origin and source, bills, guarantees, financial capabilities and authentication of signatures. The Chamber has also sought to resolve disputes by amicable means in addition to actively taking part in setting trade standards, appointing experts and representatives to study commercial and industrial issues and participating in conferences and exhibitions in many parts around the world. The Chamber also receives economic delegations and sends teams to other countries to boost cooperation, besides opening trade centers and holding trade shows in foreign markets.

The Chamber cooperates with all agencies and trade chambers in the UAE and abroad with the aim of serving its members and developing economic relations.
AIWF 2012 Conference Acknowledgments

Patron

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi,
Supreme Council Member, United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Sharjah

The Board of Trustees and members of the Arab International Women’s Forum wish to extend a special acknowledgment and deep appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Sharjah, and Founder and President of the American University of Sharjah for the honour and the privilege of His Highness’ Patronage for the Arab International Women’s Forum 2012 Sharjah Conference and His Highness’ distinguished presence at the Opening Ceremony of this special event.

It is a great pleasure and honour for the Arab International Women’s Forum to bring this landmark Conference to the state of Sharjah, which with its world class environment created by His Highness’ far seeing personal initiatives and inspired guidance is recognised for its entrepreneurial spirit in being a centre of academic excellence and culture and an international business hub.
AIWF 2012 Conference Acknowledgments

The Board of Trustees and Members of the Arab International Women’s Forum wish to acknowledge with kind thanks and much appreciation the valuable support and cooperation of the following esteemed institutions, organisations and individuals for the AIWF 2012 Conference in Sharjah.

Conference Hosts

AUS | الجامعة الأمريكية في الشارقة
American University of Sharjah

The Arab International Women’s Forum wishes to recognise with much appreciation the outstanding support of Dr Peter Heath, Chancellor and the American University of Sharjah for generously hosting the AIWF 2012 Sharjah Conference and making it a reality.

The Arab International Women’s Forum wishes to extend their thanks and appreciation for the support of the Dr Sultan Al Qassimi Centre of Gulf Studies, Al Darah for generously hosting the Welcome Reception for the AIWF 2012 Sharjah Conference.

We would like to extend a particular note of appreciation and thanks to Dr Nada Mourtada Sabbah, Vice Chancellor for Development & Alumni Affairs, American University of Sharjah, and the AUS team.

Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The Arab International Women’s Forum wishes to recognise with much appreciation the outstanding contribution of His Excellency Ahmed Mohammed Al-Midfa Chairman and the Board of The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in generously hosting the Evening Reception and Conference Gala Dinner.
AIWF 2012 Conference Acknowledgments

Special Acknowledgment

A very Special Acknowledgment goes to the Sharjah Partners whose cooperation and generous support has been received with grateful thanks. AIWF wishes to acknowledge with special appreciation the following:

- **Ernst & Young**
  *Quality In Everything We Do*

- **Al Faisal Holding**

- **Radisson Blu Resort, Sharjah**

- **Abu Dhabi Media**
The Board of Trustees and Members of the Arab International Women’s Forum wish to acknowledge with kind thanks and much appreciation the valuable support and cooperation of the following esteemed institutions and individuals for the AIWF 2012 Conference in Sharjah.

AIWF Global Institutional Partners

The Arab International Women’s Forum is proud to have the professional knowledge, expertise, and long standing cooperation and valued support of our Institutional Partner the World Bank.

The Arab International Women’s Forum is proud to have the professional knowledge, expertise and valuable cooperation of our Institutional Partner the MENA - OECD Investment Programme.
AIWF 2012 Conference Acknowledgments

AIWF Global Corporate Partners

The Board of Trustees and Members of the Arab International Women’s Forum wish to acknowledge with kind thanks and much appreciation the valuable support and cooperation of the following AIWF Global Partners for the AIWF 2012 Conference in Sharjah.

AIWF GLOBAL BENEFACTOR PARTNER

AIWF 2012 GLOBAL CORPORATE PRINCIPAL CONFERENCE PARTNER

AIWF 2012 GLOBAL CORPORATE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME PARTNERS

AIWF is proud to have the support of our distinguished Global Corporate Conference Programme Partners, Petrofac Ltd, Pfizer Inc, PricewaterhouseCoopers, DLA Pipers LLP for their generous support and valuable cooperation for the 2012 Conference Programme.
AIWF 2012 Conference Acknowledgments

AIWF 2012  GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE PARTNER

Memac Ogilvy

AIWF is proud to have the valuable partnership cooperation of our distinguished Global Communication Consultant Memac Ogilvy as a Conference Partner. We wish to extend our appreciation of their generous support and the contribution of their professional services.

MEDIA PARTNER

The Arab International Women’s Forum wishes to express thanks and appreciation to the Financial Times (The FT) for their cooperation.

The timely production of the Special FT Report “Women and the Arab Awakening” being published on 16 May 2012, especially to coincide with and be distributed at the AIWF Conference at the American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates marks the significance of their long standing relationship in working together to promote awareness of the achievements of businesswomen in the region.
The World Bank Group

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world.

The World Bank is like a cooperative, made up of 187 member countries. These member countries, or shareholders, are represented by a Board of Governors, who are the ultimate policymakers at the World Bank. Generally, the governors are member countries’ ministers of finance or ministers of development. Since inception in 1944, the World Bank has expanded from a single institution to a closely associated group of five development institutions. Its mission evolved from that of a facilitator of post-war reconstruction and development to the present-day mandate of worldwide poverty alleviation. Reconstruction remains an important part of its work. However, at today’s World Bank, poverty reduction through an inclusive and sustainable globalization remains the overarching goal of its work.

Once, it had a homogeneous staff of engineers and financial analysts, based solely in Washington, D.C. Today, it has a multidisciplinary and diverse staff that includes economists, public policy experts, sector experts and social scientists—and now more than a third of our staff is based in country offices. It has more than 9,000 employees in more than 100 offices worldwide.

The World Bank Group consists of five organizations:

**The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** lends to governments of middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.

**The International Development Association (IDA)** provides interest-free loans - called credits - and grants to governments of the poorest countries.

**The International Finance Corporation (IFC)** provides loans, equity and technical assistance to stimulate private sector investment in developing countries.

**The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)** provides guarantees against losses caused by non-commercial risks to investors in developing countries.

**The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)** provides international facilities for conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes.
OECD-Mena Women’s Business Forum
An Initiative Of The Mena-Oecd Investment Programme

The OECD-MENA Women’s Business Forum (WBF), established by the 2007 Ministerial Declaration on Fostering Women’s Entrepreneurship in the MENA Region, promotes women’s economic development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It brings together over 300 representatives of government, private sector and civil society from MENA and OECD countries. It works with businesses, NGOs and academia to facilitate an exchange of good practices for improving women’s access to business development services, financing and training. Based on priorities identified with these stakeholders, it makes recommendations to MENA governments for improving policies and legislation impacting women’s economic integration.

The Women’s Business Forum helps to mainstream women’s issues in the work of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme, an initiative launched in 2005 at the request of 19 participating MENA governments* to support business climate reform. Since the Programme’s inception, a decade of reforms has helped to improve the business climate in MENA economies, but a number of economic development challenges remain. In the context of the historic social, political and economic changes sweeping across the MENA region, the Programme has identified four priority areas for work in 2011-2015:

- Attracting private investment
- Catalysing SME and entrepreneurship development
- Supporting women’s economic integration
- Creating a level playing field for businesses

The MENA-OECD Investment Programme convenes representatives of MENA and OECD governments to exchange good practices in a wide range of policy areas, leveraging the OECD model of policy dialogue and peer learning. It provides a platform for facilitating dialogue with civil society, the business community and academia in the identification and implementation of business climate reform priorities. Building on OECD instruments and guidelines, the Programme also develops country-specific evaluations of business climate-related policies and offers technical assistance to governments in identifying and implementing priority reforms.

**THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

The OECD is an inter-governmental organisation where 34 Members work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and help governments address emerging policy issues such as finding new sources of growth, building skills, and restoring public trust in government and business. The OECD provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to coordinate domestic and international policies. It increasingly engages with a number of non-members who have become important actors in today’s global economy.

* The governments participating in the Programme include Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
PepsiCo is a global food and beverage leader with net revenues of more than $65 billion and a product portfolio that includes 22 brands that generate more than $1 billion each in annual retail sales.

Our main businesses – Quaker, Tropicana, Gatorade, Frito-Lay and Pepsi-Cola – make hundreds of enjoyable foods and beverages that are loved throughout the world. PepsiCo’s people are united by our unique commitment to sustainable growth by investing in a healthier future for people and our planet, which we believe also means a more successful future for PepsiCo. We call this commitment Performance with Purpose: PepsiCo’s promise to provide a wide range of foods and beverages for local tastes; to find innovative ways to minimize our impact on the environment by conserving energy and water and reducing packaging volume; to provide a great workplace for our associates; and to respect, support and invest in the local communities where we operate.

In 2011, PepsiCo earned a place on the prestigious Dow Jones Sustainability World Index for the fifth consecutive year, the North America Index for the sixth consecutive year and was ranked as the number one company in the index’s Food and Beverage Supersector.

Our mission is to be the world’s premier consumer Products Company focused on convenient foods and beverages. We seek to produce financial rewards to investors as we provide opportunities for growth and enrichment to our employees, our business partners and the communities in which we operate. And in everything we do, we strive for honesty, fairness and integrity.

Our vision is to put into action through programs and a focus on environmental stewardship, activities to benefit society, and a commitment to build shareholder value by making PepsiCo a truly sustainable company.

Our Values & Philosophy are a reflection of the socially and environmentally responsible company we aspire to be. They are the foundation for every business decision we make.

We are committed to delivering sustained growth through empowered people acting responsibly and building trust.
ManpowerGroup™ (NYSE: MAN), the world leader in innovative workforce solutions, creates and delivers high-impact solutions that enable our clients to achieve their business goals and enhance their competitiveness. With over 60 years of experience, our $22 billion company creates unique time to value through a comprehensive suite of innovative solutions that help clients win in the Human Age. These solutions cover an entire range of talent-driven needs from recruitment and assessment, training and development, and career management, to outsourcing and workforce consulting. ManpowerGroup maintains the world’s largest and industry-leading network of nearly 3,800 offices in over 80 countries and territories, generating a dynamic mix of an unmatched global footprint with valuable insight and local expertise to meet the needs of its 400,000 clients per year, across all industry sectors, small and medium-sized enterprises, local, multinational and global companies. By connecting our deep understanding of human potential to the ambitions of clients, ManpowerGroup helps the organizations and individuals we serve achieve more than they imagined – because their success leads to our success. And by creating these powerful connections, we create power that drives organizations forward, accelerates personal success and builds more sustainable communities. We help power the world of work. The ManpowerGroup suite of solutions is offered through ManpowerGroup™ Solutions, Manpower®, Experis™ and Right Management®. Learn more about how the ManpowerGroup can help you win in the Human Age at www.manpowergroup.com.

ManpowerGroup is the most trusted brand in the industry, and was once again the only company in our industry to be named to the Ethisphere Institute’s 2012 World’s Most Ethical Companies list for our proven commitment to ethical business practices, including an outstanding commitment to ethical leadership, compliance practices and corporate social responsibility.

In January 2011, at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, ManpowerGroup announced the world has entered the Human Age, where talent has replaced capital as the key competitive differentiator. This concept of talentism as the new capitalism continues to resonate and was echoed as a core theme of the 2012 Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. Learn more about this new age at www.manpowergroup.com/humanage

Gain access to ManpowerGroup’s extensive thought leadership papers, annual Talent Shortage surveys and the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey, one of the most trusted indices of employment activity in the world, via the ManpowerGroup World of Work Insight iPad application. This thought leadership app explores the challenges faced by employers navigating the changing world of work and provides in-depth commentary, analysis, insight and advice on strategies for success.

Follow ManpowerGroup Chairman and CEO Jeff Joerres on Twitter: twitter.com/manpowergroupjj. Joerres is one of only six Fortune 500 CEOs who leverages a Twitter account to get his message out.
Petrofac Ltd

Petrofac is a leading international service provider to the oil & gas production and processing industry, with a diverse customer portfolio including many of the world’s leading integrated, independent and national oil & gas companies. Petrofac is quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: PFC) and is a constituent of the FTSE 100 Index.

We are a truly international organisation, with a culturally diverse workforce comprising more than 80 nationalities. Our business is all about people, and we are committed to attracting and retaining the best talent and providing the appropriate support frameworks to enable them to work successfully as part of our group. Our values are both clear and meaningful. They highlight what Petrofac stands for, and are the single most important and unifying aspect of our culture.

At Petrofac we aim to conduct our operations responsibly and work conscientiously to do so.

In support of our project and operational focus, we have a corporate responsibility strategy and community investment standard which is centred around the development of training programmes and facilities to help educate, train and develop local workforces in all aspects of safety and technical operations, enabling individuals in the countries where we operate to go on to lead challenging and fulfilling careers in the oil & gas industry.

With more than 15,000 employees, Petrofac operates out of seven strategically located operational centres, in Aberdeen, Sharjah, Woking, Chennai, Mumbai, Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur and a further 24 offices worldwide. The predominant focus of Petrofac’s business is on the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS), the Middle East and Africa, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Asia Pacific region.

For additional information, please refer to the Petrofac website at www.petrofac.com.

Pfizer

At Pfizer, we apply science and our global resources to improve health and well-being at every stage of life. We strive to set the standard for quality, safety and value in the discovery, development and manufacturing of medicines for people and animals. Every day, Pfizer colleagues work across the world to advance wellness, prevention, treatments and cures that challenge the most feared diseases of our time.

Pfizer believes that, collectively, our individual experiences allow us to better meet the needs of our patients and further our work to make the world a healthier place. Pfizer celebrates the array of unique qualities, perspectives and life experiences, which define us as individuals. This includes our visible differences such as gender, age, ethnicity, physical appearance. In January 2011, Pfizer and seven other global organizations played a key sponsorship role in the launch of a The Gender Equality Project, a new global certification assessment methodology for gender equality in the workplace.

Diversity and Inclusion is a core business driver that allows Pfizer to deliver on our commitment to improve health at every stage of life. Starting internally; we place a high value on colleagues by consistently working to cultivate a corporate culture that exhibits inclusive behaviors and demonstrates respect for every colleague, global workplaces where cultural differences, ideas and perspectives can flourish.

These traits create a vibrant community and a supportive culture that allows our people, regardless of where they work in the world, to feel valued, involved, supported and respected. And while we celebrate the differences that create the mosaic culture of Pfizer, it is diversity of thought that we value most.

For more than 150 years, Pfizer has worked to make a difference for all who rely on us. To learn more about our commitments visit www.pfizer.com
PricewaterhouseCoopers

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is proud to support the Arab International Women’s Forum (AIWF). Our success as an organisation depends upon unlocking the potential of our people, in the same way that the AIWF aims to open up the opportunities and influence of Arab women in business and government. PwC’s Middle East Women in Business initiative further demonstrates our commitment to goals closely aligned to those of the AIWF.

PwC firms provide industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services to enhance value for their clients. We believe that the best outcomes are achieved through close collaboration with our clients and the many stakeholder communities we serve. Our strength is built on the diversity and talents of more than 161,000 people in 154 countries. We work most effectively for our clients when we harness the rich mix of our collective skills, knowledge and backgrounds. We share ideas and collaborate closely within our organisation, with our clients and in the wider communities in which we operate to create stronger ideas and better answers. Through combining our capabilities we can bring fresh perspectives that go beyond conventional thoughts and solutions and add value for our people and clients.

This approach fits well with the aims of the AIWF and its ‘Building Bridges, Building Business’ ideology. We are therefore delighted to support the work and objectives of the Forum.

DLA Piper is a global law firm with over 4,200 lawyers throughout the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Our experienced legal practitioners bring true international insight, combining it with local know-how to offer practical and commercial legal advice to their clients locally and globally. We help companies do business anywhere in the world.

Truly local, truly global DLA Piper has an extensive local presence in the Middle East and is equipped to assist its clients across all of its strategic legal requirements, anywhere, anytime. Our strong local presence complements our formidable global presence spanning 77 offices in 31 countries.

DLA Piper Middle East has a presence in all six GCC countries - United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain as well a group firm in Egypt, DLA Matouk Bassiouny. We draw on experience both locally and from around the globe with dedicated practitioners experienced in Corporate, Restructuring, Finance and Islamic Finance, Real Estate, Employment, Projects & Infrastructure, Litigation & Regulatory, and Intellectual Property & Technology.
**Memac Ogilvy** started its operation in Bahrain in 1984. The company is a joint venture between Middle East Marketing and Advertising Company (MEMAC) and Ogilvy Worldwide.

Memac Ogilvy offers advertising, public relations, direct marketing, planning and creative services to its large portfolio of clients through 14 offices across the Middle East and North Africa region. This wide geographical coverage along with its group of over 500 professionals gives the company a unique insight into different segments of the Arab markets.

**Company Overview**

Our mission is to create masterful stories that raise awareness and change opinions to help propel our clients’ businesses. The agency provides strategic PR counsel across its six core practices: social marketing, public affairs, healthcare, consumer marketing, corporate, and technology.

We also have a number of specialty offerings including: health policy, government relations, CSR, crisis management, financial relations, and internal communications.

Ogilvy PR has been at the forefront of pioneering ways to tap and realize the power of social media and word of mouth marketing.
Al Faisal Holding

The story of Al Faisal Holding’s growth and development reflects the entrepreneurial vision and drive that have transformed Qatar into one of the world’s strongest and fastest growing economies. Created with modest start-up capital in the 1960s as a small, local trading company, founder and Chairman H.E Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani, has built that business into one of Qatar’s largest privately held diversified industry groups with operations that continue to grow across local, regional and international markets.

The Group’s strategy is focused on sustained, profitable growth through diversification by identifying, evaluating and exploiting complementary market opportunities, both organically and in collaboration with world class, industry-leading partners. Today, it is involved in a wide range of sectors including Real Estate, Hospitality, Construction, Trading, Transport, Entertainment, Education, Services, and Information Technology, together with a range of investments that include its majority interest in Aamal Company QSC.

To expand its hospitality and leisure business, the Group is building a high quality hotel portfolio in prime city locations across MENA, Europe, North America and the Far East. Its recent acquisition of the W Hotel in London’s West End last year and the launch of three new hotels in Doha with Marriott International have reinforced Al Faisal Holding’s significant presence in the hospitality sector globally.

With over 3000 employees, Al Faisal Holding is a company that encourages personal and professional progress by providing the guidance and scope for taking individual responsibility for initiative and performance. The Group also contributes to the development of Qatar’s knowledge-based economy through its focus on education and skills development. Its Education division comprises the Gulf English School, the Stenden University in Doha and Educate Qatar, a complementary learning facility that provides tutoring programmes across a range of academic and business disciplines.

HE Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani’s own initiative with Qatar University and Qatar National Bank - the Al Faisal Educational Fund - reflects the same innovative approach to education. Available each semester to around 120 male and female students of the University’s College of Business and Economics, the Fund enhances courses in investment and portfolio management by enabling students to create and manage real portfolios of securities, giving them access to first-hand experience to enhance their understanding of the principles of socially responsible investment.
Ernst & Young in Middle East & North Africa

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) practice of Ernst & Young has operated since 1923, and our longevity in the region gives us a deep understanding of business in this part of the world. We are the largest professional services provider in the region, with over 4,000 people in 13 countries and have won numerous awards and accolades for our work.

The culture of Ernst & Young is to ensure that we understand our clients concerns and work with them to provide creative, innovative, and cost effective solutions. We help to improve regulatory regimes and company reporting models. We promote transparency in financial reporting and use our influence to strengthen global corporate governance. We encourage entrepreneurship, which leads to growth, jobs and prosperous communities. And our people share their business skills and knowledge with others in their communities.

Abu Dhabi Media

Abu Dhabi Media (ADM) is a media company with its headquarters in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates. As of June 2009, it owns Abu Dhabi Television, Abu Dhabi Sports Channel, Emirates Television Channel, Abu Dhabi Radio, Emarat FM Radio, Vevo, Holy Quran Radio, Sawt Al Musiqa Radio, Al Itthad newspaper, Zahrat Al Khaleej magazine, Super magazine, Majid magazine, The National newspaper, Image Nation, and other businesses including the United Printing Press. It also distributes a number of publications licensed from external suppliers, notably from the National Geographic Society.
Radisson Blu

The Board, Members and Guest Speakers and Delegates for the Arab International Women’s Forum Conference being held at the American University in May 2012 have as their Conference hotel, the well located and appointed Radisson Blu Resort beach resort.

The upscale Radisson Blu Resort is located on the famed Corniche Road in Sharjah near the key business and shopping districts, as well as the city’s cultural gems.

Sharjah is seen as the cultural and historical heart of the United Arab Emirates. Guests can easily explore popular Sharjah attractions near the resort, including the Sharjah Art Museum, the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization and the Sharjah Natural History and Botanical Museum.

The resort is very convenient for the international guests attending the Conference being barely 15 minutes from the Sharjah International Airport and 20 minutes from the Dubai International Airport. The hotel is also very well placed for access to the Conference venues and all the Conference delegates are assured of a warm welcome.
Acknowledgments to AIWF 2012 Global Partners

The Arab International Women’s Forum would like to recognise the encouragement of the many partners who share the AIWF Mission and whose endorsement, cooperation and participation helps AIWF to activate the agenda for business growth, change and development. AIWF is proud to have the confidence of our Global Annual Partners and their commitment and valued support for our work and other initiatives.