



AIWF NEWS

Arab International Women's Forum

المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

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The AIWF Round Table at The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, 25 January 2007

Left to right: Ms Mariot Leslie, Ms Nadereh Chamlou, Ms Dominique Dellicour, Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani, Dame Julie Mellor, Ms Wendy Papworth

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

At the start of another active year for AIWF, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to begin by wishing all of our partners, members and friends a happy, successful and peaceful New Year.

We will be continuing the dialogue necessary to build bridges, foster greater cross cultural understanding and open up economic opportunities. AIWF will pursue its strategy of encouraging a greater number of women in the Arab world – and women in other world markets – to avail themselves of the skills and knowledge to increase their business and economic potential.

Already, a follow up meeting to the AIWF 2005 programme, *Women as Engines of Economic Growth in the Arab World* with the support of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in the UK has been held this month. A panel of distinguished guest speakers, representing our 2005 programme partners, provided an excellent review of the impact of the report, assessed the extent to which recommendations had been implemented by stakeholders and advocated the way forward to full implementation. A report is being written together with a updated Action Plan which, when published shortly, will be distributed widely to members, partners and other supporters.

In March, there will be two stellar events to launch our 2007 programme, *Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship*. AIWF has been honoured by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Alderman John Stuttard who has invited us to return to the Mansion House, his official residence to host an international business networking dinner. This event will take place on Wednesday 7 March 2007 and we look forward to welcoming all of our members, partners and friends on this occasion. On the next day, Thursday 8 March, we will be marking International Women's Day with a special conference when two panels of distinguished speakers will examine the theme *Women's Entrepreneurship as a Driver for Growth and Stability*. Full details of both events appear in this newsletter and on our website.

This two day initiative will provide an inspiring start for the 2007 programme, bringing added momentum to the AIWF mission which, since AIWF's inception, has focussed on capacity building and human resource development to empower women globally and regionally. We move ahead with the AIWF agenda of advocacy, business and education and highlight women's business leadership as being vital for growth and development in the Arab world and beyond.

We remain most appreciative of the valued support of all our institutional and corporate partners and valuable members in enabling the organisation to deliver its message and effect positive change.

Haifa Al Kaylani
Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2007

- 7 March** AIWF Dinner with the theme '*Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship: Enhancing Business Opportunities Between the City of London, the Arab World and the International Community*' at the Mansion House, The City of London
- 8 March** AIWF International Women's Day Conference, '*Women's Entrepreneurship as a Driver for Growth and Stability*', London

For more information contact AIWF offices
email info@aiwfonline.com www.aiwfonline.com

AIWF 2007 PROGRAMME

Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship is the theme of the AIWF 2007 programme, which is being launched by a two day initiative on 7 and 8 March 2007.

AIWF is holding an outstanding conference on Thursday 8 March, International Women's Day to celebrate this annual major day of global recognition for the economic, political and social achievements of women. The conference, at the London headquarters of DLA Piper, will examine the theme of *Women's Entrepreneurship as a Driver for Growth and Stability*.

International Women's Day, now confirmed by the UN, is the annual day of global recognition for the economic, political and social achievements of women. As Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, said in a December 2005 report "*By effectively increasing the impact of women on public life at all levels, the potential for change towards gender equality and empowerment of women and a more democratic and just society is increased.*"

The AIWF 2007 conference will be looking at various aspects of entrepreneurship and how women can make a difference. The particular focus will be on the opportunities for women and the impact they have when taking significant roles in the global marketplace. Two panels of eminent speakers will bring to the conference their diverse experience and foresight on how women's entrepreneurship can be a driver for growth and stability.

Guest speakers who have confirmed their participation are Roxanne Mankin Cason, *President Women's Leadership Board, Harvard*, Roxanne Decyk, *Director Corporate Affairs, Shell International*, Florence Eid, *Vice President and Senior Economist for Middle East and North Africa, J P Morgan*, Stephanie

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The fall programme commenced with my participation at the launch of the *Women Leaders Intercultural Forum* at Columbia University in New York in September. This exceptional organisation explored the inter-regional, inter-generational and inter-sectoral approach of women's leadership to global and cultural challenges. The event was co-hosted by Mary Robinson, President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative and the United Nations Population Fund with Columbia University.

In October I participated in the Evian Group's 11th Plenary Meeting in Switzerland on the theme *The Grave Crisis of Globalisation: How Can We Regenerate the Momentum?* The conference brought together men and women from around the world to promote the message that a robust and sustainable global market can only exist when underpinned by a sense of global community.

In early November my destination was Boston, Massachusetts to attend the Women's Leadership Board Meeting at Harvard University in my capacity as Vice-President International of the WLB. The meeting brought together an exceptional group of participants. It was a great honour for me to chair the session focusing on non-profit organisations that support women and girls, a subject very close to the mission of the Arab International Women's Forum.

Also in November I delivered the keynote speech at the International Alliance for Women's Global Partnership Forum in Atlanta. The conference focused on the topic *Excellence in Leadership: Women Setting the Pace*, allowing me to address the question of how Arab Women can foster peace and progress. The programme and participants at this outstanding global convention were dynamic and inspirational. It provided a forum for collaboration and networking with the overarching aim of working together to make a positive difference in the world, a goal that AIWF whole-heartedly endorses.

The Third International Roundtable on *Constructing Peace, Deconstructing Terror*, hosted by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament and the Strategic Foresight Group, which I attended at the European Parliament from 26-27 November, was an excellent event. It examined the means by which the international community can dissuade young people from violence and explore the possibilities of cooperation between Western and Islamic countries in the search for peace and security in the Middle East.

The Arab Women Organisation held its annual Summit in November which was hosted by HH Shaikha Sabeeka Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain and current President of the AWO. It was indeed a great privilege for me to return to Bahrain on this occasion and to meet with the various Arab delegations attending this important event, many of whom AIWF has collaborated with on different occasions. (For further details, see article on the Summit opposite)

In December, I attended the Arab Strategy Forum in Dubai which had the theme *Creating Opportunity from Change*. During the conference, I was pleased to chair the session on "How Will Arab Women Transform Business?" which AIWF collaborated on with the Women Leaders Intercultural Forum. This was a very successful panel in which AIWF member Raja Essa Saleh Al Gurg, Managing Director of the Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group, together with AIWF Board Member Sheikha Hanadi Al Thani and Maureen Kempston-Darkes, Vice President, General Motors, made excellent contributions. They spoke on how Arab women are entering and excelling in business in the Arab world more than ever before, thus transforming not only business in the region but also societies.

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani
Chairman

OECD-APEC CONFERENCE: REMOVING BARRIERS TO SME ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS ATHENS, 6-8 NOVEMBER

As we know at AIWF, small and medium enterprises are significant contributors to the global economy and could be even more so if access to international markets was easier.

Operating successfully in international markets requires developing formal and informal business relationships and a familiarity with regulation, customs, cultures and languages, all of which can be very challenging from a distance and especially onerous financially. Internationalising also poses managerial challenges for business owners who may often not be able to afford the luxury of an expert 'export department'.

These challenges and many others were discussed in Athens 9th November 2006. It was well attended with high level trade delegates coming from around the world. It was evident that whether delegations were from Jordan or Japan, the challenges facing SMEs in breaking into international markets were very similar. The participants agreed there was much to be learned from each other and that governments could play a much greater role in facilitating access for SMEs. In particular the concluding action plan called on governments to increase the support available to SMEs, and where this already exists, to publicise it better as it often doesn't get to those who need it most. It was good to be reminded how vital female owned SMEs are and remind delegates about the findings of the AIWF report of 2005 on *'Women as Engines of Economic Growth in the Arab World.'*

Inge Relph
AIWF Board Member

TIAW - GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FORUM, ATLANTA

The motto of The International Alliance for Women (TIAW) is "Connecting to Make All the Difference in the World" and on November 9th and 10th, 2006 that's exactly what an exceptional group of women did in the picturesque southern American city of Atlanta, Georgia. The occasion was the Global Partnership Forum of TIAW, an annual event that brings together women from all regions of the world to spend two days of intense discussion, learning and building bridges.

The Forum featured a wide variety of speakers and topics, all bringing new perspectives to TIAW's key areas of focus of empowering women, from women needing micro-credit in developing nations to women breaking down barriers at the highest corporate levels in developed countries where there are still relatively few women represented on boards of directors. For TIAW, the message is clear that the support and advancement of women is the key to the betterment of society at any level.

A definite highlight of the Forum was the address by Haifa Al Kaylani, Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum. As a featured keynote speaker, she emphasized the importance from a woman's perspective of a "world without borders" and of building bridges to businesses for women on a global basis, focusing on what we all have in common, not our differences, an approach that she also said was essential to creating the world without borders within Arab nations.

Important bridges were built as a result of Mrs. Al Kaylani's excellent presentation and her ability to reach out and connect with people and organizations. Indeed, it was one of those essential bridges, between Mrs. Al Kaylani and Diane Morris, in her capacity as President of City Women's Network (now Immediate Past President) and as 1st Vice President of TIAW that an important connection prior to the conference was made and as a result, women from around the world were able to hear Mrs. Al Kaylani's important message in Georgia.

It was indeed, another instance of connecting to make all the difference in the world.

By Stephanie MacKendrick
President, Canadian Women in Communications & President, TIAW

DLA PIPER ROUND TABLE IN BEIJING

In November 2006 DLA Piper co-sponsored a general counsel roundtable in Beijing, in association with organisers Martindale Hubbell Lexis Nexis. The topic was: *Corporate Legal Services in China: reducing legal risks and delivering business-focused advice with little time or resources.*

Attendance at the event was impressive. Members of the in-house legal profession were motivated and extremely keen to share best practice. It is clear that lawyers working in China are starting to face similar challenges as their European and US counterparts, including corporate governance issues. Business opportunities are also booming and, with the efforts of the legal profession, the legal framework is becoming clearer and increasingly streamlined.

Natural bridges exist and are likely to develop between the Middle East and the Far East, with the latter presenting interesting investment opportunities for the former. DLA Piper is running a similar general counsel roundtable in Dubai on 7 December 2006 on: "Improving Corporate Legal Services in the Middle East: managing in-house and outside legal support during rapid growth". The firm has over 100 lawyers in China and a network of offices in the Middle East through which it is well positioned to support these growing investment opportunities."

*Helena Samaha
AIWF Member, DLA Piper*



AIWF Chairman with the Minister of Health in Bahrain and Saida Agrebi, AIWF Board Member

ARAB WOMEN ORGANISATION FIRST CONFERENCE BAHRAIN, 13 – 15 NOVEMBER 2006

HH Shaikha Sabeeka Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain and current President of the Arab Women Organisation, hosted the AWO Summit, *6 Years after the First Arab Women's Summit: Achievements and Challenges*, in Bahrain, 13-15 November 2006.

This very special occasion was attended by high-level delegations representing fifteen Arab countries, some at the level of the First Ladies and others at the ministerial level. The AWO is a governmental organisation established under the umbrella of the League of Arab States and inspired by HE Mrs Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady, The Arab Republic of Egypt.

HH Sheikha Sabeeka delivered the Opening Keynote Address stressing that, "Women must play a full role in society and this cannot happen if women are not given their full rights." HH Sheikha Sabeeka also announced the launch of an initiative by The AWO to link migrant Arab women and she urged the Arab League to support a similar mechanism.

In the closing statement of the meeting, participants urged their countries to ensure that development programmes expand the role of women, including strategies to help young generations. Governments, they concluded, should also promote the use of technology by women in the Arab world and organize national committees to enhance their role in science and technology.

It was a most successful and inspiring occasion where the work of AIWF was acknowledged on several occasions by the delegations attending the Summit.

*Haifa Al Kaylani
AIWF Chairman*

AIWF 2007 PROGRAMME

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MacKendrick, *President The International Alliance of Women / President Canadian Women in Communications*, Rania Rizk, *Senior International Counsel, Pepsico International, Mena Region*, Helena Samaha, *Partner - Commercial DLA Piper*, Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean and *Senior Representative of the European Commission*.

The Rt Hon Lord Mayor of the City of London Corporation, Alderman John Stuttard has invited AIWF to hold a special AIWF Dinner at the Mansion House his official residence in the City of London. This prestigious event will take place on Wednesday 7 March 2007, the eve of International Women's Day, with the theme of *Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship Enhancing Business Opportunities Between the City of London, the Arab World and the International Community*.

His Excellency Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussain, wife of HH Skeikha Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and His Royal Highness Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abulaziz, Chairman Kingdom Holding Company, have been invited as Guests of Honour on this special occasion.

This stellar event will be addressed by outstanding Arab and global business leaders led by HH Sheikha Hanadi Nasser Al Thani, Managing Director AMWAL, Qatar, Mr Willem Brocker, Global Managing Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Mr Hamid Ja'far, Chairman Dana Gas and Chairman Crescent Petroleum. United Arab Emirates.

The Dinner will bring together 300 guests which will include AIWF global partners, members and other supporters, men and women prominent in the global economy and the world community representing governments, businesses, academia and professional and diplomatic circles creating an environment for networking and bridge building, aiming for business growth and development.

*Sylvia Perry
AIWF Board Member*

For more information, contact AIWF offices
e-mail: info@aiwfonline.com

**AIWF WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE
WITH APPRECIATION THE VALUED SUPPORT
OF AIWF CORPORATE PARTNERS.**



AMWAL PROFILE

Founded eight years ago by AIWF Board Member Sheikha Hanadi Nasser Bin Khalid Al Thani, Amwal has become Qatar's leading investment banking, asset management and financial planning firm. The company has been a pioneer in the market, and was the first investment company to be licensed by the Central Bank of Qatar.

Amwal has launched the first investment portfolio and the first mutual fund investing in the Doha Securities Market, and underwrote the first non-Qatari Initial Public Offering in the country. Amwal has one of the most talented investment teams in Qatar. The firm boasts a strong shareholder base that includes some of the most respected financial institutions and business groups in the region including Abraaj Capital and Shuaa Capital from the UAE, Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Bank and Qatar Navigation.

Headquartered in Doha, Amwal has one of the largest investment teams in Qatar, employing 50 investment professionals drawn from a global pool of talent representing more than 15 countries. Together, they bring over 100 years of combined investment banking and asset management experience, and have aligned Amwal with some of the most prestigious landmark transactions in the region.

www.amwal.com.qa

MEMBERS NEWS

Sheikha Hanadi bint Nasser bin Khaled Al Thani

AMWAL, the company of which AIWF Board Member, Sheikha Hanadi bint Nasser bin Khaled Al Thani is Vice Chairperson and Managing Director, was recently named as 'Leading Investment Firm' in Qatar by Iktissad Wa Aamal, and was just another plaudit attributed to this high profile business woman.

Sheikha Hanadi was named as 'Women CEO of the Year' by the Middle East Excellence Awards Institute for her significant contribution in developing Qatar's economic and social presence in the Arab world. In addition to the AMWAL responsibilities, in her capacity as CEO of Al Waab City and Vice President of Nasser Bin Khaled Al Thani & Sons Holding Group, she manages a wide range of businesses including real estate and investment earnings.

She was voted 'Personality' of the year 2005' by Arrayah, Gulf Times' sister Arabic daily, 'for her vision, leadership and contribution to the economy.'

Debra Davis

Birmingham City Council has appointed a new Director of Public Affairs and Communications. **Debra Davis** will be responsible for all marketing, communications and international relations.

Ms Davis has served as a communications assistant under two Canadian Prime Ministers before her appointment to the Canadian High Commission in the UK as Counsellor (Public Affairs). Since 2001 she ran her own UK-based communications consultancy. Debra is a Board Member of AIWF and acts as its Communications Director providing strategic communications.

Mei Sim Lai OBE DL FCA FCCA was elected President of the City Livery Club in October 2006, the first Chinese President in the 92 year history of the Club and only the second lady to hold this position. A former partner of city accountants, Pridie Brewster, Mei Sim Lai is now Managing Director of LaiPeters Limited and has her own Chartered Accountancy practice LaiPeters & Co.

She is very active in the City of London, running the IOD, City of London and is on the Court of the Horners Company and the World Traders Company.



Mrs Al Kaylani with Dr Gamal El Din Moukhtar, President of ASTMT

AIWF CHAIRMAN VISITS ARAB ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MARITIME TRANSPORT IN ALEXANDRIA

For AIWF member, Professor Layla El Saeed who is President Assistant for Female Education at the Arab Academy for Science & Technology and Maritime Transport in Alexandria, 2006 - 2007 is proving to be a very busy year.

Last year she had discussions with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London for the forthcoming conference 'Arab Maritime Women in MENA and Africa' which the Academy is holding in collaboration with the IMO on 16 and 17 July 2007. Later in the year, (November) she was a delegate at the successful Hawkamah conference in Dubai.

During her trip to Alexandria in January 2007, Mrs Al Kaylani, Chairman of AIWF, visited the Arab Academy for Science, & Technology, & Maritime Transport accompanied by Prof El Saeed and Captain Hussein A Hegazy, Secretary of Memorandum of Understanding with the IMO. She had been invited and was received by Dr Gamal El Din Moukhtar, President and Captain Emad A Islam, the Vice President for IMO Affairs at the Academy.

It was an opportunity for Mrs Al Kaylani to explore with Dr Gamal El Din Moukhtar various avenues for mutual cooperation on enhancing the role and status of Arab women. Earlier Mrs Al Kaylani had visited the IMO Compound at Abu Kir Campus to discuss partnership proposals with the Academy in relation to the July conference. The visits were helpful in developing understanding on the objectives of both the Academy and the AIWF.

*Professor Layla El Saeed
President Assistant for Female Education at the ASTMT*

HOW TO JOIN AIWF

AIWF welcomes members in three categories:
Individual, association and corporate.

To receive a membership form, kindly contact:

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