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Arab women come of digital age

Web posted at: 4/16/2009 2:28:5

Source : The PENINSULA / BY CHRIS V PANGANIBAN

DOHA: More Arab women are now empowered with the technologies of the digital age with several institutions looking after their welfare making efforts in this regard.

In Qatar, the Supreme Council for Information and Communication Technology (ictQatar) is vigorously empowering women with technology through e-business and e-literacy programmes.

Women leaders in the Gulf and from global institutions were told this yesterday at the 'Advancing Arab Women in Technology Workshop' hosted by ictQatar at the Millennium Hotel.

The two-day workshop brought together more than 40 experts on women in technology from the Middle East and the United States with the aim of moving forward with plans to create a Center for Women and Technology for the Arab Region (CWTAR). Inputs of the workshop would help organisers set up the CWTAR by the end of this year.

Dr Hessa Al Jaber, ictQatar Secretary General, said ictQatar had given priority to promoting e-literacy, especially among non-working women, by providing at least 500 participants computer skills training last year, at the same time helping women in small and medium-sized businesses realise the value of incorporating ICT into their business plans.

"Because of ICT, women can actively participate in every sphere of life, if we choose. Because of ICT, we can change our countries, and world, if we choose," said Dr Jaber in her speech during the opening ceremony.

Another speaker, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Vice Chair of UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development, cited 14 salient points about the significant role of empowered women in ICT and about modern trends in education.

He, however, underscored culture as an issue for women in the Arab world because of restrictions on their mobility. "Online education can be key to empowering them, only that there are still no sufficient resources available for online Arabic education," he said.

The UN official also pointed out the challenges involved in empowering women only when access to technology is available, and the issue of women being under-represented in the ICT workforce even in developed countries.

On a brighter note, Abu-Ghazaleh said the women of today, like in the case of Saudi women who he said are more productive than men, "are more accomplished, so that they don't need to be empowered."

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(From left) Reem Al Mansoori, e-Inclusion Manager, ictQatar; Dr Hessa Al Jaber, Secretary General of ictQatar; Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Vice Chair of UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development; and Behjat Al Yousuf, Associate Director, Dubai Women's College, at the second Advancing Arab Women in Technology Workshop held yesterday at the Millennium Hotel. © SALIM MATRAMKOT

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Digi Girls — Making technology easy for girls

Web posted at: 4/16/2009 2:18:12
Source :: The PENINSULA / By Emme Suelto

DOHA: Women leaders like Dr Behjat Al Yousuf, Associate Director of Dubai Women's College, are changing the perception that women and technology do not go together.

The second Advancing Arab Women in Technology Workshop was held yesterday at the Millennium Hotel to promote the participation of women in technical fields.

"We want to increase the number of women who are actively using technology for economical development. We know that there are variations in how much women can use technology but the question is how they are using it and for what," Dr Al Yousuf, Chair of the Centre for Women and Technology for the Arab Region, said.

As a result of the first leadership workshop held in Dubai last year, Digi Girls, a one-day activity, run in partnership with Microsoft, was initiated by the Centre.

"We see a lot of youngsters are on social networking and instant messaging all the time and we want to move the focus from that – to have value of using technology for knowledge dissemination and for them to be better citizens," she added.

Introduced for the first time outside of Europe and America, Digi Girls was adopted as an initiative of the Centre to expose high school girls to new products that Microsoft has been developing in their laboratories but has not yet introduced to the market.

The girls were given hands-on experience and were engaged in developing something out of different technology streams, such as web development, hardware, robotics and programming.

"After each session, the facilitator decided what was the winning idea, what was the inspiring idea. The winners will get Xboxes, let say, just to inspire them and make them more comfortable with the technology," she said

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Seminar focuses on role of women in technology

A two-day workshop relating to gender and technology 'Advancing Arab Women in Technology: Strategy Made Reality', began here yesterday.

Supported by the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ictQatar), the workshop has brought together over 40 experts on women-in-technology from the Arab world and the US and serves as a continuum to the inaugural event held in November in Dubai, an ictQatar spokesperson said.

"The primary focus of the workshop is to move forward with plans to create the Centre for Women and Technology for the Arab Region (CWTAR), a major resource to support women's involvement in the knowledge society," the official added.

Opening the workshop



The ictQatar officials and speakers at the opening of the seminar yesterday

ictQatar secretary general Hessa al-Jaber said: "Qatar is striving to be a knowledge economy. At ictQATAR we are working to connect women to the technologies that will enrich their lives and inspire confidence in their future."

"To a greater degree almost every day, ICT empowers us. It connects us to one another, to government and to media. It connects us to social causes, to universities, to businesses worldwide. Because of ICT, women can actively par-

ticipate in every sphere of life, if we choose. Because of ICT, we can change our countries, and the world, if we choose," al-Jaber added.

CWTAR, which will first exist in a virtual capacity, will focus on the opportunities and contributions of both women and emerging technologies in the global economy.

The planned ICT-driven centre will build on the current best practices and develop new initiatives in the Arab World to measurably-

increase economic, social, and educational development to benefit all.

They represent business, government, education, and non-government sectors.

Key organisations taking part are Multinational Development of Women in Technology, Dubai Women's College, Unesco, World Bank, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Arab Women Organisation, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organisation, CISCO and Hewlett Packard.

Plan to set up regional centre of technology for women

JOSEPH VARGHESE

DOHA Centre for Women and Technology for the Arab Region (CWTAR), a major resource to support women's involvement in the knowledge society, is on the anvil.

A two-day workshop on 'Advancing Arab Women in Technology: Strategy Made Reality', being hosted by the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ictQATAR), was opened by the Secretary-General of ictQATAR, Dr Hessa al Jaber, at the Millenium Hotel here on Wednesday. The workshop aims at advancing women's participation in knowledge society. The workshop is the next step of the inaugural event held in Dubai last November. More than 40 experts on women in technology from the Arab World and the United States are participating in the workshop.

Dr Jaber, while inaugurating the workshop said, "Qatar is striving to be a knowledge economy and, truly, the rest of the world is becoming a knowledge society. The ictQATAR allows



Secretary-General of ictQATAR Dr Hessa al Jaber addressing the workshop in Doha on Wednesday. (UDAYAN NAG)

women to have full access to this knowledge society. We are working to connect women to the technologies that will enrich their lives and inspire confidence in their future."

Dr. Hessa, to emphasise her point, quoted the famous lines of Mahatma Gandhi that "we must be the change we wish to see" and exhorted the participants to be the agents of change that would make the world an even better place for women.

The plans for establishing the CWTAR will focus on the opportunities and contributions of both women and emerging technologies in the global economy. The planned ICT-driven centre will be built on the best practices and develop new initiatives in the Arab world to measurably increase economic, social, and educational development for the benefit of all in the knowledge economy.

The working committees will

discuss the next steps for strategy mapping, develop marketing strategies and set timeline for implementation of the business plan.

Speaking on the occasion, Manager of e-Inclusion Department at ictQATAR, Reem al Mansoori commented, "By ensuring access and connectivity to relevant technologies and increasing women's presence and leadership in the ICT, we foster innovation and help transform the region into a knowledge-based society."

Representatives of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organisation and Dubai Women's College highlighted the growing presence of women in the world of technology. The formal function was followed by discussions on various topics.

Key organisations participating in the workshop include Multinational Development of Women in Technology (MDWIT), Dubai Women's College (DWC), UNESCO, The World Bank, ESCWA, Arab Women Organisation, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organisation, CISCO, and Hewlett Packard. The workshop will conclude on Thursday.

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ictQATAR Hosts Advancing Arab Women in Technology Workshop
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15 April 2009
Workshop Aims to Advance Women's Participation in Knowledge Society, Create Regional Center for Women in Technology

Doha, Qatar: The **Supreme Council of Information and Communication is Technology (ictQATAR)** hosting the "Advancing Arab Women in Technology: Strategy Made Reality" workshop April 15 and 16 at the Millennium Hotel in Doha. The workshop brings together more than 40 experts on women in technology from the Arab World and the United States and serves as a continuum to the inaugural event held in November 2008 in Dubai. The primary focus of the workshop is to move forward with plans to create the Center for Women and Technology for the Arab Region (CWTAR), a major resource to support women's involvement in the knowledge society.

Opening the workshop, Dr. Hessa Al-Jaber, **ictQATAR** Secretary General said "Qatar is striving to be a knowledge economy and truly the rest of the world is becoming a knowledge society. ICT allows women to have full access to this knowledge society. At **ictQATAR** we are working to connect women to the technologies that will

enrich their lives and inspire confidence in their future."

"To a greater degree almost every day, ICT empowers us. It enables us. It connects us to one another, to government and to media. It connects us to social causes, to universities, to businesses worldwide. Because of ICT, women can actively participate in every sphere of life, if we choose. Because of ICT, we can change our countries, and the world, if we choose," added Al-Jaber.

CWTAR, which will first exist in a virtual capacity, will focus on the opportunities and contributions of both women and emerging technologies in the global economy. The planned ICT-driven center will build on the current best practices and develop new initiatives in the Arab World to measurably increase economic, social, and educational development to benefit all in the knowledge economy. For two days the working committees will participate in discussions to identify the next steps for strategy mapping, develop marketing strategies, and set timeline for implementation of the business plan.

"Hosting this workshop is a clear example of **ictQATAR's** commitment to the promotion of socioeconomic development through ICT," said Reem Al-Mansoori, Manager of e-Inclusion Department at **ictQATAR**. "By ensuring access and connectivity to relevant technologies and increasing women's presence and leadership in ICT we foster innovation and help transform the region into a knowledge based society."

Participants in the workshop include representatives from the business, government, education, and non-government sectors. Key organizations participating include Multinational Development of Women in Technology (MDWIT), Dubai Women's College (DWC), UNESCO, The World Bank, ESCWA, Arab Women Organization, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, CISCO, and Hewlett Packard.



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The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ictQatar) is hosting the 'Advancing Arab Women in Technology: Strategy Made Reality' workshop April 15 and 16 at the Millennium Hotel in Doha.

Qatar: Wednesday, April 15 - 2009 at 16:51 **PRESS RELEASE**

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Dr. Hessa Al-Jaber.

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يستضيف المجلس الأعلى للاتصالات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات قطر ورشة عمل بعنوان "النهوض بالمرأة العربية في قيادة استراتيجية تحقق" وذلك خلال الفترة من 15-16 أبريل 2009 الميلينيوم بالدوحة، تضم ورشة العمل أكثر من 40 خبيراً في العربي والولايات المتحدة في مجال المرأة وعلاقاتها بالتكنولوجيا

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الدكتورة حصة الجابر الأمين العام للمجلس الأعلى للاتصالات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات

تأتي هذه الورشة امتداداً "لقمة المرأة والتقنية في الشرق الأوسط" التي عقدت في نوفمبر 2008 في دبي بدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، وتركز الورشة بشكل أساسي على الماضي قديماً في وضع خطط تأسيس المركز الإقليمي للمرأة العربية والتكنولوجيا كمصدر أساسي لدعم مشاركة المرأة في مجتمع المعرفة.

وصرحت الدكتورة حصة الجابر الأمين العام للمجلس الأعلى للاتصالات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات في كلمتها الافتتاحية لورشة العمل "إن دولة قطر تعمل جاهدة من أجل أن يتحقق لها الاقتصاد القائم على المعرفة الذي يتحقق الآن للكثير من دول العالم. وإننا في المجلس الأعلى للاتصالات نعمل على ربط المرأة بالتكنولوجيا التي تترى حياتها وتلهمها الثقة في مستقبلها". وأضافت "إن تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصالات تزيد من قدراتنا كل يوم، إنها توصلنا بالآخرين وبحكوماتنا وبوسائل الإعلام، إنها توصلنا بالفعاليات والأحداث الاجتماعية والجامعات وبمراكز الأعمال في كل أنحاء العالم، وعن طريق تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصالات تستطيع المرأة أن تشارك مشاركة نشطة في كل مجالات الحياة إذا اختارت ذلك ويمكننا بهذه التكنولوجيا تغيير بلادنا والعالم نحو الأفضل إذا ما اخترنا ذلك".

وسيولي المركز الإقليمي للمرأة العربية والتكنولوجيا - الذي سيبدأ أعماله بشكل افتراضي - أولوية لفرص ومساهمات المرأة والتكنولوجيا الحديثة في الاقتصاد العالمي، وسوف يستفيد من أفضل الممارسات الحالية ويقوم بتطوير مبادرات جديدة في العالم العربي لتعزيز التنمية الاقتصادية، الاجتماعية والتعليمية لدعم الفائدة على الجميع في

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استضاف المجلس الأعلى للتكنولوجيا والتواصلات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات (آي سي تي) ورشة عمل بعنوان "الطموح العربي في قيادة التكنولوجيا: استراتيجية مستكشف" خلال الفترة من 16-15 2009 بقيادة د. مينيلاويند بالاحو. حضر ورشة العمل أكثر من 40 خبيراً من 10 من العالم العربي والولايات المتحدة في مجال الأعمال وعلاقتها بالتكنولوجيا. وباتفاقية مع منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة (اليونسكو) في لندن في نوفمبر 2008 في دبي بولصة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، وركزت الورشة بشكل أساسي على القضايا الفنية، ووضع خطط تأسيس "المركز الإقليمي العربي والتكنولوجيا" كمجلس أساسي لدعم مشاركة المرأة في مجتمع المعرفة.

وصرحت الدكتورة حمصة الجابر الأمين العام للمجلس الأعلى للتصالحات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات في كلمتها الافتتاحية لورشته العمل أنّ دولة قطر تعمل جاهدة من أجل أن يتحقق لها الاقتصاد القائم على المعرفة الذي يتحقق الآن للكثير من دول العالم . وإننا في المجلس الأعلى للتصالحات نعمل على ربط المرأة بالتكنولوجيا التي تثرى حياتها وتلهمها الثقة في مستقبلها .

لتحميل كلمة د. الجابر أثناء الورشة، في نسخة PDF، اضغط على هذا الرابط. لمشاهدة مقطع الفيديو الخاص بكلمة د. الجابر في المؤتمر، اضغط على هذا الرابط.

وأما كيف يمكن توظيف المعلومات والاتصالات لتزويد من قبلنا كل يوم، إنها توصلا بالأخيرين وبحكمومتنا ووسائل الإعلام، إنها توصلا بالفعاليات والأحداث الاجتماعية والجامعات ومراكز الأمل في كل أنحاء العالم. وعن طريق التكنولوجيا والمعلومات والاتصالات نستطيع المرأة أن تشارك مشاركة نشطة في كل مجالات الحياة إذا ائتمرت ذلك ويمكننا بهذه التكنولوجيا تغيير بلدنا والعالم نحو الأفضل إذا ما اخترنا ذلك.^٥

وبسبب المركز الإقليمي للدراسة العربية والتكنولوجيا - الذي سبباً أعماله بشكل افتراضي - لئولية فرص ومساهمات المرأة والتكنولوجيا الحديثة في الاقتصاد العالمي، وسوف يتكبد من أفضل الممارسات الحالية ويقوم بتطوير مبادرات جديدة في العالم العربي لتعزيز التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والتعليمية تدعم الفائدة التي للجميع في الاقتصاد المعرفة. وسوف تشارك مجموعات التطوير على مدى يومين في مناقشات يهدف لتحديد الخطوات التالية فيما يتعلق بوضع الاستراتيجية، وتطوير استراتيجيات التسويق ووضع الجول روض تنفيذ خطة العمل.

وصرحت السيدة ريم المنصوري مديرة الشؤون الإلكترونية بالمجلس الأعلى للاتصالات أنَّ استضافة هذه الورشة إنما تمثل نموذجاً جيداً لالتزام المجلس بتعزيز التنمية الصناعية والاقتصادية من خلال تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصالات، فمن خلال توفير الوصول إلى التكنولوجيا المناسبة وتعزيز وجود المراكز وريادتها في مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصالات، إنما نقوم برعاية الإبداع ونسهم في تحويل الاقتصاد إلى مجتمع قائم على المعرفة.⁶

وضمت الورشة مشاركين من القطاعين العام والخاص وقطاع التعليم والبيئات غير الحكومية مثل مؤسسة التطوير الدولية المرأة والتكنولوجيا MDWTY، كلية دبي التقنية للطلاب DWI، منظمة اليونسكو، البنك الدولي، لجنة الأمم المتحدة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغرب آسيا (الإسكوا)، هيئة المرأة العربية، منظمة طلال أبو غزاله، شركة سيسكو، وشركة الاتصالات العالمية HP.

هذا وكانت ورشة العمل الأولى قد تمخضت عن وضع الأهداف الإستراتيجية المركز في مجالات التعليم وتطوير القوة العاملة وتشجيع الأعمال الريادية والقيادة. ففي مجال التعليم يهدف المركز إلى ضمان تعريف الطالب بأهمية مشاركة الكفاءة في العلوم والتكنولوجيا والهندسة والرياضيات. وفي مجال القوة العاملة يعمل المجلس على توسيع توظيف المرأة في الوظائف الفنية لزيادة التنمية الاقتصادية من خلال بناء شبكات دعم غير رسمية. وفيما يتعلق بتشجيع الأعمال الريادية، أكدت ورشة

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ictQATAR Hosts Advancing Arab Women in Technology Workshop

Workshop Aims to Advance Women's Participation in Knowledge Society

The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ictQATAR) hosted the "Advancing Arab Women in Technology: Strategy Made Reality" workshop April 15 and 16 at the Millennium Hotel in Doha. The workshop brought together more than 40 experts on women in technology from the Arab World and the United States and serves as a continuum to the inaugural event held in November 2008 in Dubai. The primary focus of the workshop is to move forward with plans to create the Center for Women and Technology for the Arab Region (CWTAR), a major resource to support women's involvement in the knowledge society.



Secretary General during the workshop

Opening the workshop, Dr. Hessa Al-Jaber, ictQATAR Secretary General said "Qatar is striving to be a knowledge economy and truly the rest of the world is becoming a knowledge society. ICT allows women to have full access to this knowledge society. At ictQATAR we are working to connect women to the technologies that will enrich their lives and inspire confidence in their future."

To download Dr. Hessa Al Jaber's speech during the conference, in PDF format, follow this [link](#). To watch the full video of the speech, follow this [link](#).

"To a greater degree almost every day, ICT empowers us. It enables us. It connects us to one another, to government and to media. It connects us to social causes, to universities, to businesses worldwide. Because of ICT, women can actively participate in every sphere of life, if we choose. Because of ICT, we can change our countries, and the world, if we choose," added Al-Jaber.

CWTAR, which will first exist in a virtual capacity, will focus on the opportunities and contributions of both women and emerging technologies in the global economy. The planned ICT-driven center will build on the current best practices and develop new initiatives in the Arab World to measurably increase economic, social, and educational development to benefit all in the knowledge economy. For two days the working committees will participate in discussions to identify the next steps for strategy mapping, develop marketing strategies, and set timeline for implementation of the business plan.

"Hosting this workshop is a clear example of ictQATAR's commitment to the promotion of socioeconomic development through ICT," said Reem Al-Mansoori, Manager of e-Inclusion Department at ictQATAR. "By ensuring access and connectivity to relevant technologies and increasing women's presence and leadership in ICT we foster innovation and help transform the region into a knowledge based society."

Participants in the workshop include representatives from the business, government, education, and non-government sectors. Key organizations participating include Multinational Development of Women in Technology (MDWIT), Dubai Women's College (DWC), UNESCO, The World Bank, ESCWA, Arab Women Organization, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, CISCO, and Hewlett Packard.

The first workshop resulted in the development of strategic objectives for the Center in education, workforce, entrepreneurship and leadership. In education, the goal is to ensure that female students recognize the importance of their full participation in

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