

Plan to set up regional centre of technology for women

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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.