

## Training: Basic living Skills Program

February 28, 2006

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) at the Lebanese American University held on February 28 training sessions for 27 Centers of the Ministry of Social Affairs conducted by Ms. Anita Nassar (IWSAW, Program Officer) on the use of the new version of the Basic Living Skills Program (BLSP). This program was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and facilitated by Mercy Corps-Lebanon.

## Women and the Media: The Challenges to Empowerment in Saudi Arabia

May 24, 2006

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World and the Division of Social Sciences and Education invited Mrs. Samar Fatany, Journalist at Radio Jeddah to give a talk on Women and the Media: The Challenges to Empowerment in Saudi Arabia. The talk covered a variety of issues connected to women and the media in Saudi Arabia, including discrimination against women in Saudi Arabia, women and Islam, the challenges to empowerment for the Saudi woman, as well as how all these affect the leadership role of Saudi Arabia in the region.

## Launching: Empowering Arab Women through Literacy

April 5, 2006

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) at the Lebanese American University launched the Empowering Arab Women through Literacy program. The program was funded by a grant from the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). This program is geared towards second level literates and consists of 61 stories dealing with 12 themes mainly: Civic Education, Legal Rights, Women Empowerment, Women Empowerment through Work, and Violence against Women. In addition, it includes a teaching guide with comprehension exercises.



The program

The objectives of this program are to strengthen the capacities of Arab women in an attempt to improve the quality of their lives and that of their families, to empower them and make them active participants in the process of sustainable and equitable development.

The launching was attended by Dr. Abdallah Sfeir, Vice-President for Academic Affairs (LAU); Mr. Fadi Yarak, Adviser to her Excellency Minister of Social Affairs Mrs. Nayla Muawad; and from the Embassy of the United States of America, Ms. Juliet Wurr, Public Affairs Officer and Mr. Ali Dimashkieh, Cultural Affairs Specialist. Ms. Anita Nassar (IWSAW, Program Officer) introduced the program to the audience using a power-point presentation.

Upon the request of MEPI, the Institute distributed the program to 36 of the Centers for Training and Social Services and Development of the Ministry of Social Affairs, from different regions of Lebanon and 15 non-governmental organizations that will integrate the program in their literacy units.

## International Women's Day: Remembering Rose Ghurayyib

March 23, 2006

To pay tribute to the pioneering Lebanese writer and former editor of Al-Raida (IWSAW's quarterly journal) Ms. Rose Ghurayyib, the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) invited the belated's close friends, students, colleagues, and family members to share their cherished memories of Rose. Speakers were President Joseph Jabbra, Emily Nasrallah, Anissa Najjar, Henry Zgheib, Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig (Acting Director of IWSAW), Ms. Anita Nassar, Master of Ceremony. The event also included a three day exhibition of her published and handwritten manuscripts.



Front row audience from left to right: Dr. Abdallah Sfeir, Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig, Ms. Emily Nasrallah, Dr. Joseph Jabbra.

## Inauguration of the Visiting Room Tripoli Prison

June 23, 2006

In view of the precarious living conditions of the incarcerated women in the Tripoli prison, the overwhelming needs observed and expressed by these women, as well as the concern of the authorities in charge of this prison, the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World and Dar Al-Amal have initiated, since 2002, rehabilitation and intensive vocational training and reinsertion programs in the Tripoli Prison for Women.

The objective of the project is to:

- to improve the incarceration environment
- to assist women prisoners in discovering their own abilities, and create a more positive image of themselves
- to train women in marketable skills to earn an income which will provide for their basic needs inside and outside the prison
- to empower women prisoners through economic independence
- to prepare them for their reinsertion into society

The 2005-2006 program which is coordinated by Ms. Anita Nassar, under the supervision of Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig, is being jointly implemented by Ms. Anita



From left to right: Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig, Mrs. Anita Nassar, General Michel Nassif, Lieutenant Colonel Bassam Al-Ayoubi, Captain Elias Ibrahim, Ms. Huda Karra, Ms. Farah Hammoud.

Nassar, Ms. Huda Karra and Ms. Farah Hammoud. 165 incarcerated women are benefitting from it. Programs in vocational-skills training, literacy, Basic Living Skills, and mental health (psychotherapy) are offered as part of the rehabilitation project for these women.

As part of the project, the 'visiting room' which was renovated was inaugurated in the presence of representatives from the Internal Security, Municipalities and Syndicates of Lawyers.