

Arab Woman and the Environment A National Conference

organized by
the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Beirut University
College
and the Frederich Ebert Foundation

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) of Beirut University College and The Frederich Ebert Foundation are sponsoring a national Conference entitled *Woman and the Environment*. The Conference will take place on October 8, 9, and 10, 1992, in Beirut.

The organizing institutions and scholars realize the growing and critical need to emphasize the role of women in environmental issues since women are the primary users of the environment. Hence, the goal of the Conference is to create public awareness and to motivate women to play a more active role in preserving and protecting the environment.

The panels and workshops will discuss the social, the economic and the political variables and issues related to women and the environment. Once, the variables are identified and the link to women is examined, the conferees aim to produce a practical guide for healthy and constructive use of environmental parameters. The guidelines, in the form of a simple booklet, will address women of all social classes and backgrounds, equally.

The Conference is expected to host forty to fifty participants ranging from leading individual scholars and environmentalists (men and women), to concerned institutions and

organizations, educators, government officials, notably from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment, as well as the only female member of Parliament, Mrs. Nayla Mouawad. The panels and workshops are closed in order to allow the participants to reach firm conclusions and solutions for the problems at hand.

The relationship between women and the environment is real and evident. Like the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment in Miami, Florida, and other small

developmental projects by various concerned groups and NGOs like ourselves, this activity is part of the Global concern and efforts for creating environmental awareness and preservation.

Hence, such a Conference is needed to emphasize it, to motivate women to become more active, and to provide them with scientific and environmentally healthy advice. The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World also aims to hold a Arab regional conference about Arab women and the Environment in the near future •

