

The Regional Conference for Business and Professional Women



Amman, Jordan April 26-28

Among all the conferences held on Arab women in development this may well be the only one to address Arab women in the business and professional arena. It emphasizes and confirms women's work as an independent subject matter and a reality that has long been integrated into broader and general aspects of development. The fact that women's professional participation and accomplishments exert basic influence on development should be emphasized and incorporated in the development of modern societies.

The Regional Conference for Business and Professional Women was organized by the Amman Business and Professional Women Club of Amman, Jordan and the International Federation of (BPW), and under the auspices of Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, who is also Honorary Head of the Club.

The Club called on representatives and scholars from various Arab countries - i.e. Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, and Yemen - to discuss important issues concerning Arab women's participation in business and professional fields. The Lebanese team included Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr, Director of the Institute for women's Studies in the Arab World and Dr. Ilham Kallab Bsar, professor of sociology at the Lebanese University and President of the Lebanese Family Planning Association.



Left to Right: Dr. Ilham Kallab Bsar and Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr, the Lebanese team

The Conference aimed at reviewing, examining and analyzing important aspects of women's participation in business and professions by highlighting, on the one hand, the developments and accomplishments made and by addressing the obstacles which continue to hinder it on another hand. Suggestions, solutions and resolutions for overcoming obstacles and enlarging the locus of Arab women's participation in business and professional fields were then presented and discussed.

The papers presented at the Conference included in-depth studies and analysis of the conditions of Arab Women in various fields and areas of study. Themes under

discussion included Higher Education: Access and Opportunities; Vocational Training: a Method for Increasing Arab Women's participation in business fields; Rate of Self-employment Among Arab Women; Strategies and Planning Towards Sustainable Development.

This Conference leads the way to examine not only the number of women entering business and professional fields, but the quality of entry. The Club's services which include advising and assisting women who want to conduct or establish their own businesses with limited resources, as well as informing them of the law and their rights are unique in the Arab world •



The executive Council of the Amman Business and Professional Women Club from right to left: Reem ad-Damen, Wajdan as-Saken, Khawla Khair, Matineh Jirdan, Her Royal Highness Queen Noor el-Hussain of Jordan, Hind Abdel-Jaber, President of the Amman Club, Inaam al-Mufti, former minister and President of the Jordanian Federation of BPW, Subhiey al-Maani, Salwa al-Naser, Hala Ibrahim.

The Amman Club is the largest one of the four Clubs that form the Jordanian Federation of Business and Professional Women Clubs.

It was established in 1976 as a national voluntary organization affiliated with the International Federation of (BPW).

The main objectives of the Club based on those of the International Federation are :

1- To stimulate in women a realization ad acceptance of

their responsibilities in society.

2- To encourage women to acquire education and occupational training and to use their occupational capacities for the advancement of their society and themselves.

3- To work for equal opportunities and status for women in economic, civil and political life.

4- To promote cooperation with other local, regional and international women organizations.

The Club executes its objectives through three main projects:

- 1- Consulting Service Office for Women
- 2- Business Counselling
- 3- Information and Documentation Center for Women's Studies

For further information contact Ms. Hind Abdel-Jaber, President, Business and Professional Women Club, Consulting Office for Women, P.O.Box 910415, Amman, Jordan