

Editorial

Editors Come and Go

But Al-Raida Remains

Al-Raida has been a wonderful experience for me during the last 4 years and eight months. It is, however, time for me to move on. I will be moving into another dimension of social development. With me I take, not only the good memories of my time at the Institute but the conviction and commitment to the improvement of women's status and conditions wherever I may be. Through Al-Raida, I learned that there can be no development without women.

As I sat to write this editorial, I looked at previous issues and could not help but acknowledge to myself the improvement it has made over the last few years. Yes Al-Raida is a platform for Arab women, and for change. It has grown against great odds since its creation in 1976. It is thanks to the dedication of the Director of the Institute for Women Studies in the Arab World, and its staff members throughout the years that Al-Raida has survived. We are proud of the contributions that Al-Raida has made for women in the international and Arab communities.

Only yesterday, John-Gay N. Yoh, a Sudanese student at AUB, who had written an article for us entitled "Tradition versus Modernity: Urban Southern Sudanese Women" (Vol. X, #56, Winter 1992) paid me a visit to tell me how the article culminated more research and interest in Sudanese women. Thus, when his article was published we received a letter from a German woman-scholar inquiring about material on Sudanese women. We referred this letter to John, who kindly answered it. He now tells me that eventually, our reader made it to the University of Khartoum in Sudan, conducted more research and is preparing a book for publication.

Hopefully this is but one of the few contributions of Al-Raida that have been reported to us. We hope that our input will generate more interest and change in the lives of women throughout the world and in the countries that receive Al-Raida.

As I leave the post of Editor-In-Chief, I am particularly grateful to Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr for her support and constant encouragement throughout my stay at the Institute. I thank her for believing in me even when I was in doubt. I will miss the laughs and the good times as well as the not-so good times I've had with my colleagues: Ms. Mona Khalaf, Research Associate; Ms. Anita Nassar, Officer; Ms. Afaf Akhras, executive secretary; Ms. Hania Oseiran, and Ms. Myriam Soufiar, Assistants at the Institute.

The members of the Advisory Board: Dr. Mona Amyuni, Dr. Nadia El-Cheikh, Ms. Adele Khudr, Ms. Mona Khalaf, Ms. Wafa Stephan Tarnowski, in addition to previous members, have been most cooperative, helpful, and are essential for the continued success of Al-Raida. Their dedicated efforts, regular attendance of meetings, diligent editorial reviews, and support in networking with contributing scholars are invaluable.

The Administration of the Lebanese American University (Formerly BUC), has been no less supportive, especially as we constantly proposed expansion, and additional funding. In a recent meeting with members of the University's administration, the Institute for Women Studies in the Arab World received a good recommendation for Al-Raida and a commitment of support.

As I said in a previous editorial, Al-Raida is yours! It will continue to serve its purpose and achieve its goals as long as you read it and use it well. Editors come and go, but the issues remain, and the need for networking expands if we are to progress. Therefore, Al-Raida remains.

Randa Abul-Husn

AL-RAIDA

About (IWSAW)..

IWSAW - The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World was established in 1973 at the Lebanese American University, formerly BUC. It began with a grant from Ford Foundation with Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr as its Director.

Objectives of IWSAW: To serve as a data bank and resource and advance a better understanding of Arab women and children. To promote communication among individuals, groups and institutions concerned with women and children in the Arab world. To improve the quality of life of Arab women and children through educational and development projects. To enhance the Lebanese American University (Formerly BUC).

IWSAW projects:

Conferences: The Institute organizes local, regional and international conferences, seminars and lectures to discuss issues of concern to women in the Arab world.

Women's Documentation

Center: IWSAW houses the Center, in the Stoltzfus Library of LAU. It holds books and international periodicals.

IWSAW publications on women include books, and the status, development and conditions of Arab women in addition to Al-Raida. Eight children's books with illustrations and two guides, one for setting up children's libraries and the second for writing and illustrating children's books have also been published.

Income Generating Project

consists of workshops on job assistance to women in war-stricken families.

The Basic Living Skills

Projects is a non-formal integrated educational program for semi-literate women to be used in development projects.

Additional projects include:

The Rehabilitation Program for Children's Mental Health; Teaching for Peace, and The Portable Library Project that received the Asahi-Reading Promotion Award in 1994.