



## Women in Delma Island, UAE Look to the Future



*WIT UAE Program Manager, Fadia Jabbour, Center Director, Waseem Manla and UP Trainer, Tareq Hadi stand proudly with the nine Delma Island graduates*

"I will never forget the thrilled expressions on the women's faces as I handed them their certificates," shares Fadia Jabbour, WIT UAE's Program Manager, after celebrating the first ever graduation ceremony at the Desert Islands Education Center, WIT UAE's newest partner.

Delma Island, a small island off the Eastern Region of UAE, is being developed by local agencies as a natural haven for wildlife with the goal of creating a top rated tourist destination. "Currently, Delma Island is a project under construction," explains Fadia. With a population of less than 10,000 and a small town center with one mall, many residents feel isolated with lack access to education or employment. "There are very few women on the island who have jobs. That is why WIT's partnership with the Desert Islands Education Center opens an immense window of opportunity for these women by preparing younger women for newly-created jobs once the island is fully developed," Fadia adds.

After gaining skills in Professional Development and Entrepreneurship, the nine graduates, ages 22-29, were beaming proudly as they received their certificates for completing WIT training. Fadia exclaims, "They are so excited about the new opportunities. Some women already have ideas for launching their own business on the island."

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