

Aisha Bent Abdallah Ben Saaid Al-Muslemaneya



Aisha, a 19-year-old young woman living in Saham, Oman, completed her Women In Technology (WIT) training course in July 2007. Aisha holds a high school diploma, but she has had only limited experience with computers. She says that her family “always encouraged me to learn more about computers,” although none of them had ever worked in the Information Technology field. She learned about the WIT program through the Omani Women’s Association (OWA), and she recognized that the course would be important and beneficial for her educational and professional goals. With her family’s encouragement, she signed up for a WIT training course at the local OWA branch in Saham.

Aisha recognizes that the world has changed considerably since her mother was her age. “In the past, technology was not so prevalent,” Aisha says, “but now it is.” Despite the differences in their lives, she says her mother is still her role model, “because she has always guided me in my life.” In her free time, Aisha enjoys reading on various topics and traveling.

In addition to the training in Microsoft programs, the aspects of the WIT course which focused on job-searching skills were particularly helpful to Aisha, as she plans to pursue a higher degree and eventually to find a job that matches her qualifications. Her dream job would be to work as an educational program coordinator.

By learning basic IT skills like those offered through WIT, a woman can “increase her stature, advance herself and be able to help her children learn how to use computers,” Aisha says. For these reasons, she sees the WIT program as something that will be beneficial and important “to the future of all women.”

Women in Technology (WIT) for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) of the U.S. Department of State, managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) West Coast Center, and implemented in collaboration with local partners in six countries: Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

WIT MENA delivers five core activities to Partner Organizations and Participants, including **Professional Development Workshops**, **IT Training through Microsoft’s Unlimited Potential (UP) Curriculum**, **Business Planning for Sustainability Workshops**, **Professional Development Networks for Women** and **Professional Exchange and Capacity Building**.

For more information on the WIT program, please visit www.witmena.org

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