



Professional Development Network launch in Morocco



In Rabat, three WIT training centers (Entraide National and Tanmia's Sale and Temara centers) have banded together to form a Professional Development Network (PDN) to expand their personal and professional skills. Members have already held a workshop on 'networking' and are conducting numerous trainings to enhance women's skills in the job market.

Among the exciting new endeavors, participants are implementing a Language Enhancement Training in English and French. Participants benefiting from this training pay a nominal monthly fee and have even agreed to sponsor participants who cannot afford the training. In addition, a past participant, who worked for the Ministry of Communication is organizing a free training for PDN participants to cultivate women's public speaking and leadership skills.

The women's Network is also brainstorming ideas for small businesses. In a recent meeting, members discussed utilizing a well-known technique developed by Moroccan women to save money called "Daret"—a local system (similar to micro-credit) where women collectively save and lend money interest free among members of their established group. Members of the PDN are organizing speaker events to discuss issues such as the worldwide financial crisis and the new Moroccan Family Law impacting women's rights. Aicha, a PDN participant shared her inspirational story with women in the group. She talked about her success in obtaining a job to financially support her children. Aicha recognizes the role that WIT plays in her life. "WIT has provided me with more motivation and determination to further my professional development."