

WIT Oman Launches First Professional Development Network Event



Network participants gathered at launch event, OWA Muscat.

On December 6, 2007 WIT Oman launched the first Professional Development Network event at OWA headquarters in Muscat, gathering representatives from all nine WIT partner sites throughout the country. The event kicked off with a cooking, website and photography competition between the various partner organizations. Winners received prizes donated by LG. In addition to the competition, guest speakers from the Ministry of Social Development and Sultan Qaboos University spoke to participants about

women's professional development in Oman and the importance of increasing access to training programs like WIT. Participants had the opportunity to elect network committee leaders who will direct activities for website development, electronic newsletter design and writing, WIT event planning, private sector outreach, personal development and awareness training, and entrepreneurship.

Establishing these types of networks for women is an important goal of the WIT Oman program. Through network activities WIT staff aims to provide participants with a venue to share career resources, discuss and mobilize around issues of shared interest, and engage in activities that promote their professional growth and development. Network activities take place at the local and national level so that partner organizations and participants from different OWA chapters have the opportunity to meet each other, coordinate activities or team-up for special projects. For many participants, the launch event on December 6th was the first time they had ever had the opportunity to meet colleagues from other OWA chapters.

Based on the success of this first launch event WIT program manager, Ms. Al-Mukhaini, has planned to hold similar events throughout the upcoming year at different OWA chapters sites so that networks can come together and partners have the opportunity to know where their colleagues work in other parts of the country. The next national network meeting will be held in February in Buraimi.