



WIT recognized as Outstanding Partner by Microsoft

At Microsoft's recently concluded Legal and Corporate Affairs Summit, Microsoft awarded Women in Technology (WIT) an Outstanding Partner Award in the Middle East and Africa. "WIT won the Award for its innovative partnership approach to empower women and expand their participation in the workforce by providing a number of local partner organizations, and the women they serve, with Microsoft Unlimited Potential, business planning, and professional development skills training in partnership with Microsoft Community Affairs and Middle East Partnership Initiative of the US Department of State," Microsoft Gulf's e-newsletter said.



Microsoft has been a crucial supporter of WIT since its launch in 2005. To date, Microsoft has donated the Unlimited Potential Curriculum to more than 50 local partner organizations and trained over 200 WIT UP trainers. In addition to the UP software, Microsoft also supports Training of Trainers, paving the path for the program's sustainability. Microsoft has also generously provided start-up and expansion grants, refurbished PCs and office furniture to WIT's partner organizations in need. For instance, WIT Oman has used the substantial Microsoft donations to set up new computer centers and install certified copies of Microsoft Office 2003 and 2007 on all their computers. This has enabled them to train WIT participants in MS Word, Excel, Power Point etc. on a sustainable basis. Abeer Al-Mukhaini, the Program Manager for WIT Oman says they are very grateful to Microsoft for assisting them in rebuilding their office at Omani Women's Association in Muscat after Cyclone Gono, which caused terrible damage to their premises in 2006.

Microsoft recognized WIT as an Outstanding Partnership program in the Middle East and Africa, along with 2 other projects: Habitat from Turkey and Fantsuam Foundation from Nigeria. "WIT illustrates an innovative partnership model between local and international organizations with a significant leverage of our community affairs work," said Dr. Zaki Khoury, Citizenship lead at Microsoft Gulf.

Microsoft is a critical partner in WIT's success, and with the partnership growing stronger by the day, it will play an increasingly significant role as the project unfolds its next phase.