



## UAE's Western Region Development Council Partners with WIT to expand the program in the Abu Dhabi Emirate

The Western Region Development Council (WRDC) recently announced its plans to fund four new, permanent WIT training centers in Madinat Zayed, Al Marfa, Ghayathi and Al Selaa. The decision to fund these new training centers, specifically devoted to the WIT program, came as a direct result of the project's success in the region. Since the second phase of classes began in February 2008 at just two sites (Madinat Zayed and Al Marfa), the program has trained 225 women. Based on this initial success the WRDC expanded WIT to two more sites in April 2008 - Al Ghayathi and Al Selaa. WRDC Administrators recognized that the current training centers in these areas, many of which were sharing computer labs with local schools and community centers, would be insufficient to deal with the growing demand for WIT training in the region. Now each of the four sites will have a WIT training center with state-of-the-art computer labs outfitted with 21 computers, wireless Internet connection, and AV equipment, plus a separate meeting / classroom and administrator office.



Abeer Abu Khadra. PM for WIT UAE helps participants at a Professional Development Training

The Western Region Development Council (WRDC) was established in 2006 under the directive of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates to pave the way towards a prosperous future for Al Gharbia, the Western Region of the Abu Dhabi Emirate. WRDC endeavors to provide its residents with a higher quality of life by improving infrastructure, creating employment opportunities and enhancing the region's business environment. The main objective of the Council is to ensure a higher quality of life for people residing in Al Gharbia.

WIT has been working in close collaboration with officials at WRDC since early March 2007. H.E. Mohamed Hamad Bin Azzan Al Mazrouei, Director General, WRDC explains, "We believe that our collaboration with the General Women's Union and WIT, is one of the most prominent steps towards our Council's plans to achieve sustainable development. We aim to assist with the development of this program that provides an opportunity for women to learn more about basic information technology skills. Through WIT, participants also receive professional advice and information to help them get better jobs, which aids the region's economic growth."

Mariam Al Kabisi, a 22-year old mother of one, participated in the WIT program in the city of Zayed. She is currently studying at the College of Technology in pursuit of an advanced diploma. Despite her full schedule as a student and mother, she managed to take the training because she says, "I feel a need to develop myself and achieve my goals." She adds with a smile, "My dream is to learn more about web-design and online security so I can start an online store, so the WIT program was very beneficial for me."