

## World Leaders Symposium in Oman Highlights Women in Technology



*Ambassador Grappo speaking at the Symposium*

WIT Oman and IIE hosted a panel in Muscat titled “New Development Solutions: Women in Technology (WIT) – an innovative partnership model for women’s empowerment in Oman” on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2009 as part of the World Leaders Symposium. Panelists discussed women’s participation in the economic and political spheres and how it is increased by international and local cooperation.

The US Ambassador to Oman, Mr. Gary A. Grappo, welcomed guests in his opening statement, commending WIT for its remarkable achievements in cultivating partnership in Oman. Grappo remarked, “WIT not only gives women concrete skills that help them move into the workplace but also fosters social and professional networking both domestically and internationally. WIT enables mothers to understand and participate in the technological opportunities their daughters and sons will have.” Panelists included former MEPI director in Oman, the Country Marketing Director of Microsoft, WIT program managers and other dignitaries.

World Leaders Symposium is an educational travel series sponsored by several leading North American educational institutions, including Harvard, Stanford and the Smithsonian Institution. This year’s Symposium was titled, “The Middle East in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” and featured former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as the keynote speaker. Secretary Baker was joined by other dignitaries and experts such as Stanford Professor Larry Diamond and Princeton Professor Bernard Haykel. These experts led a delegation of 230 symposium participants including high level business executives interested in meeting regional leaders and learning about the important issues confronting today’s Middle East. The panel gave a particular focus to WIT’s sustainability model as the key to the program’s success.

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