



## 160 Computers Donated to SOUL

### Donations of 160 computers dramatically expand WIT partner capacity

Through two magnanimous donations this November, SOUL for the Development of Women and Children, based in Sana'a, Yemen, acquired 160 computers for the expansion and enhancement of its Women In Technology (WIT) training programs.

"These new computers will certainly give us the opportunity to train a greater number of women each year," said WIT Yemen Program Manager Lina Al-Eryani.

The Dubai-based Mohammed Bin Rashed Foundation has donated 150 second-hand Pentium II and III computers. The machines were shipped from Dubai on November 25<sup>th</sup>, and are estimated to arrive at SOUL's Yemen office within two weeks. Additionally, ten fully-accessorized Pentium IV computers came from the General Telecommunication Institute in Yemen.

With the new computers, SOUL staff plan to open new computer labs and launch a women's-only internet café. "Also we plan to use them to open practical classes for those women who have no computer in their home, so that they have more time to practice," Al-Eryani said.

Acquiring the computers required initiative and persistence on the part of SOUL staff. "Following up is the most important factor in the whole process," Al-Eyani explained. "The process was long and bureaucratic, but we succeeded in the end." After several months and a series of meetings, letters, and appeals to senior officials, the donations were finally secured.

"We plan to continue looking for new computers which will be more effective in training," says Al-Eryani. They already have specific plans underway: SOUL staff have approached Yemen LNG and the World Bank, both of whom agreed to make donations in early 2008.

In the meantime, Al-Eryani is thinking of ways to extend the generosity of the Mohammed Bin Rashed Foundation and the General Telecommunication Institute to other organizations working for women's empowerment. "When we have new computers, we can help other NGOs in rural areas by giving them the old computers, and help women in these areas to have the chance to be trained."