



**In This Issue**

[New WIT Training Center  
Opens Doors in Yemen](#)

[Microsoft helps establish  
more CTLCs in Oman](#)

[Interview with Dr. Eman  
Mohammed, WIT program  
representative in Saudi  
Arabia](#)

[Professional Development  
Network Kicks off in Oman](#)

[Graduation Ceremony  
Held in Yemen](#)

Women in Technology (WIT) empowers women and expands their participation in the workforce by providing partner organizations, and the women they serve, with cutting-edge training in business planning, professional development and information technology. Since its launch in 2005, WIT has trained over 3,000 women and built the capacity of more than 40 local women's organizations in nine countries in the Middle East and North Africa: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen.

Building on our experience, vast network and tremendous momentum, we, along with our dedicated local partners, will **train 10,000 women by 2010!**

We promise to keep you updated about our developments and hope our quarterly newsletter, *WIT CONNECTIONS*, offers you an insight into our program through stories from countries where we operate.

Thank you for your support!

Heather Ramsey, Program Director  
Women in Technology, IIE  
San Francisco

[Visit Our Website](#)

**Empowered Woman of  
the Quarter**

**BASHAER MAHDI GAWD**

*As a wife, mother,  
student, and art teacher,  
28-year-old Bashaer knows  
how important it is to  
make the most of her  
time-and she's good at  
thinking of creative ways  
to do it.*

[Read More](#)

**Quick Links**

[More About Us](#)

**Partnerships**

[MEPI](#)

[IIE](#)

[Microsoft](#)

**Newsletter Archive**  
(Coming Soon!)

**SUBSCRIBE to our  
Newsletter**

[Forward to a Friend](#)

**New WIT Training Center Opens Doors in Sana'a, Yemen**

The success of the WIT program and the overwhelming interest among women to register in the program inspired SOUL for the Development of Women and Children, WIT's Lead Partner in Yemen, to open a new center in Sana'a.

In addition to setting up new computers and electronic systems, the center rapidly equipped new administration offices and established a small coffeeshop for its training staff and participants. The center currently houses three computer labs with the capacity to train 360 students per year (60 per term). Since its establishment, nearly 600 applicants have registered with the center's database. Of these, 106 have confirmed class registrations.

The key to the quality and uniqueness of the program is Microsoft's Unlimited Potential (UP) curriculum, which provides a solid foundation in basic computer concepts and the essentials of hardware, software, operating systems and the Internet. Each member of the center's all-female training staff is a Microsoft-certified teacher.



[Read More](#)

**Microsoft helps establish more CTLCs in Oman**

Microsoft Oman launched its third phase of Community Technology Learning Centres (CTLCs) in interior regions, increasing the number of WIT training centers in Oman now to fourteen (14).



women have joined the programme and are on their way to set up their own businesses or take up jobs.

In an interview with the Oman Daily Observer, Ali Faramawy, Vice-President, Microsoft Middle East and Africa, said Microsoft has donated its Unlimited Potential curriculum and trainers to OWA in the Women in Technology initiative as well as \$45,000 in cash and \$27,000 worth of software.

[Read More](#)

**Interview with Dr. Eman Mohammed, WIT program  
representative in Saudi Arabia**

"I believe that one succeeds by doing and delivering," says Dr. Eman Mohamed, who represents Women In Technology (WIT) in Saudi Arabia. "Choose good staff members who believe, like you, in the value of what you are doing, and then provide good training. Once this is done, the graduates themselves will be your marketing tool, and they will bring in others to get your good training."

This advice is an accurate summary of Mohamed's experience implementing WIT at Effat College, a renowned higher education institution for women in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. "Be patient," Mohamed says. "Believe in what you are doing and its benefit to the women in the community, and you will succeed."



[Read More](#)

**Professional Development Network Kicks off in Oman**

On December 6, 2007 WIT Oman launched the first Professional Development Network event 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. 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.

[Read More](#)

**Graduation Ceremony held in Yemen**

A graduation ceremony of the WIT program was held on Wednesday, 16 January, 2008 in Yemen. The ceremony was sponsored by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and attended by the Minister of Communication, the US Ambassador, Deputy Minister of Youth and Deputy Minister of Communication.

103 CCNA and ITE's students attended the ceremony, in addition to 21 Unlimited Potential (UP) students. 60 guests from various international organizations, private companies, and academic institutions also attended. Certificates were delivered to the students by the Minister and the US Ambassador.



[Read More](#)

We hope you enjoyed the first edition of our Newsletter. Please feel free to contact us for more information. We look forward to hearing your opinions and suggestions.

**WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY**

Ms. Heather Ramsey, Program Director  
Institute of International Education  
San Francisco, USA  
Tel: +1 415-362-6520  
Fax: +1 415-392-4667  
Email: [witmena@iie.org](mailto:witmena@iie.org)  
Web: [www.witmena.org](http://www.witmena.org)  
[www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org) \* [www.iesf.org](http://www.iesf.org)

*Women in Technology for the Middle East and North Africa (WIT MENA) is funded by the US Department of State, Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and implemented by the Institute of International Education (IIE), in partnership with Microsoft and local partners in Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, UAE, and Yemen. WIT MENA draws its participants and partners from non-governmental organizations, businesses, government agencies and academic institutions.*

