



ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

July/August 2018

Issue No 44



Ms Sonia Attiyeh, Mrs Caroline Fattal, Ms Dolly Choucair, Mr Hubert Fattal, Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani, Mr Saroj Kumar Jha, Ms Rola Tabsh Jaroudi, Judge Marssam Noueiri, Mr Camille Sifri and Mrs Hanan Saab at the AIWF Special Reception in Beirut on 10 July 2018

AIWF Founder & Chairman's Message

As Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF), I am proud to share with you this edition of the AIWF Newsletter for July/August 2018. In this issue, we report on the very successful Special Reception recently held in Beirut. We are proud to announce the upcoming AIWF high-level joint conference to be held in Amman, Jordan on 'Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region' in partnership with the Center for Mediterranean Integration. In addition, as we progress into the second half of 2018, it is an excellent time to share with pride the exciting initiatives that AIWF is now actively engaged in planning for the remainder of the year and indeed for the year ahead towards delivering another high-impact, results-oriented AIWF Annual Programme.

On 10 July 2018, I was delighted to chair the AIWF Special Reception in Beirut honouring **Mr Saroj Kumar Jha**, Regional Director of the Mashreq Region at the World Bank and based in Lebanon. During the reception, Mr Jha shared timely and valuable insight into the World Bank's much-needed initiatives and projects to revitalise Lebanon's infrastructure and development, as announced at the April 2018 Cedar (CEDRE) Conference for international donors and investors supporting Lebanon's economy, with a special focus on ensuring that economic growth creates opportunities and prosperity for women and young people in Lebanon.

The evening reception was exceptionally well attended by AIWF and World Bank guests, leading members of the Lebanese private sector, public sector, and key

AIWF In Action

AIWF was proud to host a high-level Special Reception in Beirut on 10 July 2018 honouring **Saroj Kumar Jha**, Regional Director of the Mashreq Region, The World Bank.
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Upcoming AIWF Events AIWF / Center for Mediterranean Integration Joint Conference on 'Women, Water & Youth'

AIWF will host a Joint Conference with the Center for Mediterranean Integration on 'Women, Water & Youth' on 26-27 September 2018 in Amman, Jordan. The conference will take an intersectional approach to three critical development challenges for the MENA region – water scarcity, women's economic participation, and youth unemployment, and aims to provide a platform for stakeholders most affected by water and food insecurity, armed conflict and displacement, and reduced economic opportunity into the conversation, to address region-specific environmental and sustainability challenges whilst promoting women's leadership in these areas.

To register your interest in attending this conference in Amman, please contact the AIWF office in London at info@aiwfonline.com

26 – 27 September 2018
Amman, Jordan

representatives of civil society. I wish to acknowledge the generous and ongoing partnership and support of PwC Middle East and the Fattal Group in hosting the reception, and that of all AIWF Global Partners for AIWF's ongoing initiatives to empower women and young people towards greater economic participation and social cohesion. The longstanding support of our Global Partners is always deeply appreciated and has been instrumental in enabling AIWF to make the deep and lasting impact that it has in the MENA region and internationally.

This summer, AIWF is actively advancing in all exciting preparations for the September 2018 high-level conference to be held in Amman, Jordan on *Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region*, in full partnership with the Center for Mediterranean Integration. Following the valued participation of the Head of the CMI, Blanca Moreno-Dodson, as a keynote speaker at last December's *Young Arab Women Leaders* conference held in London and other key meetings and discussions held at the World Bank in Washington DC in April 2018, it was agreed to jointly organise a major conference to be held in Jordan as part of the 2018 AIWF Programme, aligned with the CMI's core mission and focussing on three key issues of mutual concern – women, water, and youth.

I am delighted to share that the outstanding *Women, Water & Youth* programme is a direct outcome of these discussions, with core conference themes and programming developed in partnership between the AIWF and the CMI and strengthened significantly by the CMI's world class expertise in advancing transformative economic reforms, social cohesion, refugee inclusion, labour mobility, and scientific and cultural exchange to promote deeper Mediterranean integration.

We are very proud at AIWF to be working with the CMI on this important initiative that brings into focus these three critical challenges for the MENA region – water scarcity, women's under representation in MENA economies, and youth unemployment. These are key issues that AIWF has prioritised in all our initiatives and events for the 2018 – 2019 Annual Programme, and we look forward to working closely with our distinguished panel speakers, guest delegates, and conference partners to deliver a unique and exceptional opportunity for global and emerging leaders alike to network and learn from each other whilst examining key environmental, empowerment and development challenges in the MENA region and internationally.

Looking ahead to 2019, AIWF is excited to be scaling the highly successful *Young Arab Women Leaders* initiative that AIWF founded jointly with PwC in 2011,



Haifa Al Kaylani Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum

highlighting empowerment challenges for young women in business and in public service in the Arab region with two further editions planned for YAWL in 2019, one of which will be hosted in partnership with the American University in Cairo in September 2019 in parallel with the university's centenary celebrations.

Whilst at Harvard for meetings in April 2018, I had the pleasure of attending the distinguished address of **Francis Ricciardone**, President of the American University in Cairo, delivered as the Hüsni Özyeğin Annual Lecture on Modern Turkey at the Harvard University Centre for European Studies. Following Mr Ricciardone's excellent and deeply informative address, AIWF and AUC reconnected to discuss the possibility of hosting a *Young Arab Women Leaders* conference in Cairo in the coming year.

I am delighted to share that the AIWF and AUC teams are now actively engaged in planning for an exciting two-day *Young Arab Women Leaders* event which will examine critical development challenges and opportunities for young women in business, entrepreneurship, academia and public service in Egypt, covering timely and relevant themes such as women's entrepreneurship; gender diversity on corporate boards in Egypt and the MENA region; women in public office; women in family business; and the role and contributions, often unrecognised, of women in the rural and informal sectors. The *Young Arab Women Leaders* Cairo programme will draw all core panel discussions and reflections together under the overarching themes of the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 for Women. Specialist sidebar workshops are also planned for Women in Fintech and Women in Law. We look forward to working with the outstanding

team at AUC to deliver yet another stellar *Young Arab Women Leaders* programme, this edition focusing on young Egyptian leaders, and to updating our friends and members with further information on the AIWF / AUC *Young Arab Women Leaders* programme over the course of the year and into 2019.

Following on from AIWF's commitment to the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 for Women, I am proud to note that this September, AIWF is preparing to submit its second biannual Communication on Progress report for the UN Global Compact in September 2018, of which AIWF is proud to be a NGO Member. We are pleased to feature in this newsletter a brief on the UN Global Compact Network Lebanon, headed by **Dr Dima Jamali** who was also one of six women elected to the Lebanese Parliament in the May 2018 Lebanese elections. As part of our UNGC commitment, AIWF looks forward to supporting Dr Jamali's important work on the Global Compact Network Lebanon in any way possible and indeed to continuing to honour our obligations as a NGO Member of the UN Global Compact to align all events, activities and programmes with the ten UNGC universally accepted principles concerning Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

These are of course resounding principles and themes that recur in my work and research as a Commissioner on the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, which I was very proud to be invited to join by the ILO in August 2017. In May this year I attended the third meeting of the Commissioners in Geneva in May 2018 and had the great opportunity to share my research on women in the rural and informal economies. During this special occasion we all had the great honour of meeting **Cyril Ramaphosa** the President of the Republic of South Africa as the Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Future of Work, who joins the Prime Minister of Sweden, **Stefan Löfven** in leading the 28-member Commission and overseeing the preparation of our Commission report on the future of work, to be published in early 2019. The report will mark the centenary of the ILO and assess the transformative changes taking place in the world of work whilst making recommendations on the way forward.

This has been a wonderfully busy and productive spring and early summer for AIWF and for me personally. In March 2018, I am proud to share that I was named amongst the women alumni from the American University of Beirut (AUB), recognised and featured in the book "For All Conditions of Men: Stories of Women at AUB". The project was initiated and executed by the President Club at AUB, in the memory of the late **Mona Chemali Khalaf**, the former chair of the Club, who made such an indelible impact on philanthropy and women's empowerment at

AUB. I was delighted to have been invited to join the ceremony "Celebrating the Life of Mona Chemali Khalaf," on Tuesday April 3, 2018, which was followed by the President's Club Exhibition entitled "Stories of Women at AUB," featuring the women alumni portrayed in the book.

The American University of Beirut is the leading Centre of Excellence in the Middle East and has celebrated 150 years of education at the highest level. AIWF is indeed proud to have supported numerous AUB conferences and initiatives to engage women academics, PhD students and early career researchers on gender research. As an Alumna of AUB I am indeed proud to have this special honour and look forward to continuing my longstanding support of AUB's outstanding programmes and initiatives for gender diversity, in Lebanon and the broader MENA region.

During my year at Harvard, I had the great pleasure of meeting the President of the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine, **Dr Michael Collins**, and subsequently received an invitation for a special visit of UMass Medical School in April of this year. I was delighted to undertake this special visit, and to have the opportunity to meet the valued senior faculty and leadership of this world class medical school to get an insight into this center of excellence. I am looking forward to bringing the expertise of UMass to the countries of the Arab world towards promoting greater cross-cultural exchange in the development, training and mentoring of the next generation of global leaders in STEM.

Also in April, I was welcomed back to the World Bank in Washington DC for a series of key meetings with members of the World Bank leadership to discuss future collaboration between AIWF and the World Bank. It was a pleasure as always to connect with **Dr Hafez Ghanem**, then Vice President MENA of the World Bank who has since been appointed Vice President Africa, The World Bank. During these meetings, I had the opportunity to brief the World Bank team in Washington DC on AIWF's upcoming co-operation with the Center for Mediterranean Integration on the *Women, Water & Youth* conference to be held in Amman. AIWF is deeply appreciative of the World Bank's longstanding and valuable support for AIWF's mission and initiatives to empower women and young people in the MENA region and globally, and looks forward to continuing this close co-operation into the 2019 Annual Programme.

As a longstanding member and former Vice Chair International of the Harvard Women's Leadership Board (WLB), I was honoured to be invited to participate in the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Harvard WLB Women's Leadership Board in May

2018, recording a personal video message honouring the work and truly global impact of the WLB. I have been a member of the Harvard Women's Leadership Board for nearly 15 years, and I am very proud to serve on this Board alongside an outstanding group of women leaders all doing amazing work, from the US and increasingly internationally, representing government, business, academia and the non-profit sector. As one of the first Arabs to be invited early on to join the Harvard Women's Leadership Board, I am absolutely dedicated to and very active in supporting the next generation of women leaders. I have especially enjoyed building long term friendships with likeminded members of the WLB and to have had the opportunity to meet so many inspirational women leaders in all fields and from so many different countries.



EWI Audience with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan
(Photo courtesy of the Government of Jordan)

In May 2018, I attended the East-West Institute Board Meeting held for the first time in Amman, Jordan. It has been a privilege to serve on the Board of the East-West Institute for the last ten years and I am deeply committed to EWI's values and mission as a 'think and do tank', committed to finding viable solutions to the world's most critical development and security challenges. A major highlight and deeply special occasion that the EWI Board of Directors' were honoured and privileged to attend in Amman was the audience graciously granted with **His Majesty King Abdullah II** at The Al Husseinieh Palace. It was truly an honour to hear His Majesty's wide ranging and inspiring remarks, and to have the benefit of His Majesty's knowledge and profound insight providing a global overview on current peace, security and other international development challenges.

During my Jordan visit in May, I was also able to pursue further the implementation of my Harvard special project on sustainable agriculture that is now in pilot phase in Jordan by signing an MoU with the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development, led by the truly inspirational **HE Hala Bseiso Lattouf**, Jordan's Minister of Social Development who offered the land site for the project in the Jordan valley area. A full update on the project implementation is included in this issue of the AIWF newsletter, and I look forward

to keeping AIWF partners and friends updated on this exciting initiative as it progresses through the remainder of this year and into the next.

Back in London in June, I was delighted to attend for the third consecutive year the Fortune Most Powerful Summit at the Rosewood, where I was as always deeply inspired by the high caliber of the women speakers and the wide range of highly topical and relevant issues examined through the Fortune MPW high-impact programme, highlighting the issues that are at the top of the agenda for every company in a rapidly changing business and political environment. The MPW Summit is always an excellent opportunity to connect with female change makers in the UK, Europe, and beyond to exchange ideas and forge new alliances, and AIWF greatly looks forward to the 2019 Fortune MPW Summit and continuing all excellent links with Fortune.

For the remainder of 2018 and into 2019, AIWF and all AIWF Global Partners reiterate our shared commitment to examining and identifying viable solutions to critical issues of global and regional concern that deeply impact women's lives, their livelihoods and their security and prosperity, specifically in the areas of work, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. We look forward to working with all partners and stakeholders, bringing the private sector, civil society, public officials, women and youth together to innovate new solutions for the key developmental challenges in the MENA region and to better understand how these challenges impact in particular the lives of women and young people, and most importantly, what we can collectively do to mitigate those challenges through engagement, dialogue and collaboration.

Our conference in Jordan this coming September with the Center for Mediterranean Integration is another keystone initiative in AIWF's stellar 17-year history of high-impact advocacy for empowerment, sustainable development, and social and economic cohesion for women and young people. We very much hope that our friends, members, and partners will join us in Amman for *Women, Water & Youth*, or for another major AIWF event in the near future. We thank you for your continued support and encouragement, and trust that you will enjoy this rich and impactful issue of AIWF News.

Haifa AlKaylani

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani
Founder & Chairman
Arab International Women's Forum

AIWF hosts high-level Special Reception in Beirut honouring Saroj Kumar Jha, Regional Director of the Mashreq Region, the World Bank

The AIWF Special Reception in Lebanon examined critical economic reform programmes announced at the recent CEDRE Conference held in Paris with a focus on enhancing economic opportunities and prosperity for women and youth in Lebanon

The Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) held a Special Reception on Tuesday 10 July 2018 in Beirut in honour of **Saroj Kumar Jha**, Regional Director of the Mashreq Region, The World Bank. The Special Reception was held at the Beirut offices of and with the valued partnership of the **Fattal Group**, and with the valued support of AIWF Global Partner **PwC Middle East**.

AIWF was proud to welcome senior members, partners, guests and high-level Lebanese and MENA business leaders and civil society to the Reception, during which Mr Jha delivered a special address as the evening's Guest of Honour Keynote Speaker, sharing timely and valuable insight into the World Bank's much-needed initiatives and projects to revitalise Lebanon's infrastructure and development. The focus of the evening's programme was on enhancing economic growth and opportunities for young people in Lebanon, highlighting the World Bank's lead role in implementing critical economic reform and investment programmes as announced at the Cedar (CEDRE) Conference for international donors and investors supporting Lebanon's economy, held in Paris on April 6, 2018.

At the CEDRE Conference, 50 countries and organisations including the World Bank and the IMF convened and pledged over \$11 billion to an investment programme to reform the Lebanese economy, overhaul infrastructure and boost economic growth. This figure includes over \$4 billion in loans from the World Bank and \$1.1 billion from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and signals the start of a new drive to modernize the Lebanese economy and enhance the potential of the private sector. Crucially, this investment is expected to provide tens of thousands of job opportunities for Lebanese youth, with investments supporting over 250 projects in sectors including transport, water and irrigation, sewage, electricity, communications and tourism.

Mr Jha's remarks on behalf of the World Bank highlighting its outreach to support a greater role for women in the economy were especially well received and much appreciated by all. AIWF deeply appreciated



AIWF Special Reception in Beirut Mr Saroj Kumar Jha

Mr Jha's kind endorsement of the mission of AIWF and its longstanding relationship with the World Bank as a key partner in enhancing economic opportunities and social development for women and young people.

"Since the turn of the century, MENA region has made significant gains in women's access to education and health. But their access to economic opportunities remains a persistent challenge," **Saroj Kumar Jha**, World Bank Regional Director for the Mashreq, said in his keynote statement. "Approximately four out of five working-age females in MENA are out of the labor force. The average of working women stands at 22 percent, which is substantially lower than the global average of 46 percent. The World Bank is committed to address this imbalance through clear objectives at the onset of projects that ensure the creation of economic opportunities for women," he added.



AIWF Special Reception in Beirut Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of AIWF, said: "AIWF is proud to have had this very special opportunity to welcome Lebanese leaders in business, in public life and from civil society to the AIWF Special Reception held in honour of the World Bank's Regional Director for the Mashreq in Beirut. The Reception brought into focus the key initiatives the World Bank is undertaking in Lebanon to foster growth, development, and job creation for all. Importantly, the focus of the evening was on how economic reform measures announced at CEDRE in April 2018 can be leveraged to create progress

and opportunities for women and young people, who should not only be given a voice to participate fully in the development of a new economic future for Lebanon but must be the prime beneficiaries of enhanced economic and social prosperity and the unprecedented opportunities that result from much-needed reform and investment initiatives.”



AIWF Special Reception in Beirut Guests

The evening was a resounding success for AIWF and was attended by over 100 guests representing a diverse range of private sector, governmental and non-profit organisations including the Ministry of Finance; American University of Beirut; Credit Libanais; Berytech; Lebanese Council for Women Affairs; World Bank Lebanon; PwC Lebanon; Global Compact Network Lebanon; The Peace and Prosperity Trust; US Embassy Beirut; Ministry of Justice Lebanon; International Labour Organization; BBC; Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW); Union of Arab Chambers; Institute for Human Rights of the Beirut Bar Association; and Unilever Levant, among many others. Expressions of thanks and appreciation for the event were voiced by many of the guests attending.

Since its inception in 2001, AIWF has received the World Bank's continued and much valued support and cooperation in its mission to support a greater role for women in the Arab region. The close link between AIWF and the World Bank goes back over a decade when the World Bank first extended a generous welcome to AIWF in hosting a major AIWF Annual Conference, *Partners for Change: Realizing the Potential of Arab Women in the Private and Public Sector* in Washington DC in 2008, with the support of former World Bank President **Robert Zoellick** who opened the conference with a keynote address.



AIWF Special Reception in Beirut Mr Hubert Fattal, Mrs Caroline Fattal and members of the Fattal Group

In 2017, the World Bank supported AIWF's Young Arab Women Leaders 10th conference in a highly successful and long-running series designed to support young women entrepreneurs, educators and executives, focused on 'Women-Led Innovation in STEM' and held at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London. In September 2018, AIWF is proud to be partnering with the Center for Mediterranean Integration to deliver a high-level conference in Amman on *Women, Water & Youth*, a milestone in AIWF's 17-year advocacy for sustainable empowerment, economic opportunity, education, mobility and prosperity for women and young people in the Arab world taking an intersectional approach to three key development challenges in the region – water scarcity, women's economic participation, and youth unemployment.

AIWF is proud to have worked so successfully with the Fattal Group in Lebanon for many years and to have had its valued support for the first Reception held in Beirut in September 2014 as well as in the organisation for Tuesday's second high-level Reception. AIWF is also proud to have had the support for this event of AIWF Global Partner PwC, which has worked in longstanding partnership with AIWF to make a positive difference for Arab and international women in business and the professions, towards the joint mission of empowering and enabling women and young people to contribute to and share in the economic growth and development of the MENA region.

The generous and ongoing partnership of the World Bank on AIWF initiatives to empower women and young people in the MENA region and internationally is deeply appreciated and AIWF very much looks forward to working again with the outstanding World Bank team in Beirut in the future to leverage AIWF's network of Lebanese business leaders in support of the World Bank's mission and strategy in Lebanon. The AIWF Board reiterates its thanks to all partners and guests for their kind support of AIWF's work and mission following July's highly successful Reception, another key milestone in the longstanding AIWF-World Bank partnership.

AIWF and the Center for Mediterranean Integration to host a joint high-level conference on 'Women, Water & Youth' in Amman, Jordan in September 2018

AIWF is proud to announce that it will jointly host a high-level conference on *Women, Water & Youth* in Amman, Jordan on 26-27 September 2018, in full partnership with the **Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)**.

Women, Water & Youth takes a unique intersectional approach in that it will explore how economic losses arising from water scarcity and food insecurity are further compounded by two other critical development challenges that the MENA region faces - the first of these is the extraordinarily low rate of female participation in the Arab labour force overall, and the second is the high rate of youth unemployment in the Arab world.

The programme directly addresses the role of women in water governance in the region, examines the potential of entrepreneurship, social enterprise, 'smart' technology and 'edtech' innovation in building youth capacity in the Arab water sector, as well as the critical challenge of refugee empowerment in the context of water scarcity and food insecurity in the region. The Conference ultimately aims to deliver actionable solutions to mitigate all identified challenges through multi-level engagement, dialogue, innovation and collaboration.

Women, Water & Youth is a milestone in AIWF's 17-year advocacy for sustainable empowerment, economic opportunity, education, mobility and prosperity for women and young people in the Arab world. Addressing key development challenges as well as opportunities for economic growth and progress benefitting women and young people in the Arab world, the conference objectives and programme have been designed in collaboration with world leading subject matter specialists at the CMI who have extensive and unparalleled expertise in the MENA region and beyond, in helping countries achieve transformative reforms, advancing refugee inclusion, promoting labour mobility, building economic and social cohesion, cross-border trade, investment, and scientific and cultural exchange to enhance Mediterranean integration.

AIWF is proud to have the opportunity to partner with the CMI in 2018 on this much-needed and timely initiative, joining efforts to deliver a high-impact



Photo courtesy of the Center for Mediterranean Integration

programme of sessions in a 2-day, uniquely interactive format and in a supportive environment, to nurture connectivity and develop the next generation of global business and sustainability leaders and innovators.

In Amman this September, AIWF and CMI will bring government representatives, the private sector, civil society, women and youth together to innovate new solutions for the food and water crises in the MENA and better understand how these challenges impact the lives of women and young people.

The conference programme has been carefully designed to align closely with the core priority policy areas of AIWF and the CMI, and includes sessions on:

- **Women and water governance in the MENA**
- **Gender equity in sustainable agriculture and food production**
- **Building youth capacity to address water scarcity challenges in the Arab water sector through entrepreneurship and social enterprise**
- **Building capacity for women and youth in the Arab water sector through 'smart' technology and edtech innovation**
- **Impact of water scarcity in the MENA refugee and internal displacement crisis**
- **Reflections of women leaders and young innovators addressing water scarcity, sustainability, environmental and development challenges in the MENA region**

The conference Opening Sessions will be addressed by **His Excellency Munir Owais**, Minister of Water and Irrigation, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and **Her Excellency Hala Bseiso Lattouf**, Minister of Social Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. AIWF is honoured to have their valued presence and to hear their distinguished keynote addresses elaborating on Jordan's innovative initiatives in the areas of water governance and the impact of the refugee crisis on Jordan's water scarcity challenges and social development programmes.



Photo courtesy of the Center for Mediterranean Integration

Confirmed speakers for the AIWF / CMI Women, Water & Youth Conference in Amman in September include:

Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of AIWF; **Blanca Moreno-Dodson**, Manager of the Center for Mediterranean Integration; **Tessa Terpstra**, MENA Regional Envoy for Water and Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands; **Wafaa Al Dika Hamze**, Former Lebanon Minister of State, CIHEAM Board Member, National Commission for Lebanese Women, Lebanon; **Susan Kilani**, Assistant Secretary General for Laboratories & Quality Affairs, Water Authority of Jordan; **Roula Khadra**, Scientific Administrator / International Officer, CIHEAM; **Patrick Daru**, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist & Coordinator for Amman Decent Work Country Programme, International Labour Organization, Jordan; **Lamis Qdemat**, Social Entrepreneur, Founder of Water Heroes app, Member of the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat), Palestine; **Dr Rana Dajani**, Associate Professor Molecular Cell Biology, Biology Department, Hashemite University, Jordan; **Dr Lahbib Latrach**, Young water entrepreneur and winner of the CMI 2018 Water, Member of the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat) Heroes contest, Morocco; **Dr Samuel Rizk**, Manager, Sub-Regional Response Facility (Syria Crisis), UNDP; **Kholoud Al Ajarma**, Programs Manager, Lajee Center Palestine & Member of the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat); **Asma Bachikh**, Former President, Water Youth World Parliament; **Hussam Hussein**, Vice Coordinator, Mediterranean Water Youth Network; and **Maha Al Salehi**, Water professional (EMWIS, MedYWat Member) and Youth Activist, Yemen.

In line with past AIWF conferences, the *Women, Water & Youth* conference in Amman in partnership with the Center for Mediterranean Integration will bring together no less than 200 participants, including

change agents, young professionals, academics, representatives of media, government and civil society, as well as postgraduate and doctoral students representing STEM university institutes and those studying international development, international relations, environmental sciences, politics, Middle East studies, and sustainability in Jordan and the MENA.

The conference aims to bring women – who are most affected by water challenges, food insecurity, armed conflict and displacement, and reduced economic opportunity – into the conversation. It will also bring vital youth voices to the table to explore ways in which women-led / targeted, and youth-led / targeted initiatives might solve environmental and sustainability challenges whilst simultaneously promoting women's economic participation and leadership, and addressing the crisis of youth unemployment in the region.

The conference will connect established women leaders in water, sustainability and international development sectors with rising stars who are breaking new ground to address the challenges of food, water and energy in the MENA region head on through the use of transformative technology and innovative, out-of-the-box projects and initiatives.

AIWF looks forward to welcoming prominent speakers and guests who will help bring our conference objectives to life, by sharing their research into critical issues around women, youth, water and food insecurity, bringing their own experiences and expertise into the discussions.

Highly interactive, impact-driven discussions and panel debates that are a hallmark of AIWF conferences will contribute actionable insights and results-oriented recommendations from thought leaders, change agents and key actors whose expertise spans the most critical issues facing the MENA region.

The Board of the Arab International Women's Forum looks forward to working closely with the Center for Mediterranean Integration to deliver a unique and exceptional opportunity for global and emerging leaders alike to network and learn from each other whilst examining key environmental, empowerment and development challenges in the MENA region and internationally.

To register your interest in attending the *Women, Water & Youth* conference in Amman on 26-27 September 2018, please contact the AIWF office in London at info@aiwfonline.com or visit <https://womenwateryouth.eventbrite.co.uk>

AIWF Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani participates in third ILO Commission Meeting in Geneva in May 2018



The Commissioners of the ILO Commission on the Future Work met for the third time in Geneva in May 2018

The Global Commission on the Future of Work, on which AIWF Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** is proud to serve as a Commissioner following her appointment in August 2017, has begun shaping the framework and recommendations for its final report, following discussions at its third meeting in Geneva on 15-17 May. During the discussions, members looked at various themes that are likely to inform the report, which will be published in 2019 – the ILO's Centenary year – including new forms of work; the impact on work of the shifts in global demographics; digitalization and its implications; lifelong learning; inclusivity and gender equality; the measurement of work and human well-being; and attaining sustainable development.

Within those themes, the 28-member Commission touched on numerous issues including youth employment, skills, income inequality, informality, the rural economy, the digital divide and gender equality. They also discussed the institutional ramifications of the future of work. Mrs Al Kaylani's research presented at the meeting specifically focussed on women and youth in rural economies and informal sectors.

Over the weeks prior to the third meeting, five Global Commission policy dialogues took place involving experts, organizations and other agencies which looked at many of these issues in significant depth. At the end of the Commission discussions, the Commissioners agreed the next steps ahead of their final meeting 15-17 November, which will discuss the final draft of the report. After its publication in early 2019, ILO constituents – government, employer and worker representatives – will have an opportunity to consider the findings, prior to the Centenary International Labour Conference (ILC) in June next year.

The Global Commission was set up in 2017 to assess the transformative changes taking place in the world of work and to make recommendations on the way forward. It marks the second stage of the ILO's Future

of Work Initiative, launched by ILO Director-General **Guy Ryder** in 2013, following the first phase during which ILO member States convened national and sub-regional dialogues to provide their perspectives on the future world of work.

The ILO also recently announced the appointment of the President of the Republic of South Africa **Cyril Ramaphosa** as co-chair of the 28-member Commission, together with the Prime Minister of Sweden, **Stefan Löfven**. As co-chair of the Global Commission on the Future of Work, he will work with Prime Minister Löfven to oversee the preparation of the report on the future of work to be published in early 2019. The final meeting of the Commission is scheduled to take place on the 15-17 November 2018 in Geneva.

AIWF Chairman visits University of Massachusetts Medical School to support new opportunities for Arab women in medicine and cross-cultural exchange for women's innovation and education in STEM

AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** recently visited the University of Massachusetts Medical School to learn about its education, service and biomedical research missions, as well as its international student exchange opportunities. While on campus Mrs Al Kaylani spent time with Medical School Chancellor **Michael F Collins**, MD; Provost and Dean **Terence R. Flotte**, MD, Faculty and Leadership, and was given a full tour of the medical school followed by a dinner hosted at the Chancellor's Residence, where she had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Collins, the Dean and several key faculty members.

Of her visit to UMass Medical School (UMMS), Mrs Al Kaylani said: "I was exceptionally proud to have undertaken this special visit to UMMS, and was thoroughly impressed by their world class facility and the innovative, state of the art operation of the medical school, which is truly leading the way forward in inspiring and empowering the next generation of young leaders in STEM education and biomedical research not only from the United States but internationally through its ongoing collaborations with medical schools around the globe. During my visit, I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr Collins and with the Provost and Dean Dr Terence Flotte, both of whom expressed a keen interest in developing new academic partnerships and collaborating with leading medical schools in the MENA region to provide learning opportunities for Arab medical students. AIWF looks forward to working closely with the world class

team at UMass Medical School to bring into focus new opportunities for women scientists and medical students from the MENA region."

UMass Medical School is located just 45 minutes west of Boston, Massachusetts and is home to a world-class academic health sciences ecosystem that includes three graduate schools, a thriving biomedical research enterprise with more than \$250 million in annual research funding, clinical affiliates throughout Massachusetts and a community of faculty, staff and students dedicated to public service. The Medical School's mission is to advance the health and well-being of the people of the commonwealth and the world.

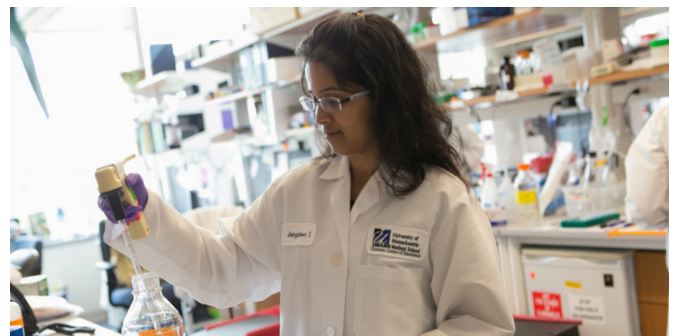
UMMS is able to consistently meet this mission thanks to the myriad contributions of a diverse and inclusive community – consider, for example, that our staff includes people from 74 countries; more than half of our students are women; and, in addition to their studies, students are active in more than 60 social, cultural, community service and career-development oriented organizations, including a Middle Eastern Student Association, which hosts events that are open to our entire 6,000+ person community and which focus on deepening appreciation of Middle Eastern culture.

For students pursuing a career as a practicing physician, UMMS has a number of ongoing collaborations with medical schools around the globe – including Ireland, China, Thailand, Hungary and Korea. Together, this variety of partnerships bring up to 50 foreign students to our campus during a portion of the year. These programs are robust and highly-competitive, with students accepted to participate based on academic performance and recommendations from their home school. Clinical electives expose students to a wide range of medical specialties including radiology, pediatrics, psychiatry, cardiology, emergency medicine and palliative care.

Sonia N. Chimienti, MD, vice provost for student affairs, notes that "visiting student experiences can be helpful to those who wish to apply for U.S. residency programs, as they can make connections and may receive recommendations to support their application."

"UMMS has had a strong history of academic partnerships through which we are able to provide learning opportunities for international students," said Provost Terence R. Flotte, MD, adding "we will continue to be open to discussions at the leadership level to develop ongoing exchanges."

In addition to its School of Medicine, which currently includes 162 MD students in each new class, UMMS is home to a Graduate School of Nursing, which educates



Photos courtesy of UMass Medical School

advanced practice nursing leaders; the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, which trains PhD scientists; and a Graduate Medical Education program encompassing approximately 600 resident physicians.

Applications for doctoral students are reviewed during December and January for admission the following September. Scientists who have already earned a doctoral degree can work at the institution as postdoctoral scholars, generally for two-to-five years, alongside world-renowned scientists. In fact, two-thirds of the postdocs at UMMS are international scholars pursuing research projects suitable for their future, independent careers in academia or industry. Interested PhDs should contact individual faculty whose research suits their area of interest. Scientists at the graduate or postdoctoral level may seek short-term Visiting Student/Visiting Scholar appointments, also by contacting faculty members directly to inquire about research opportunities.

UMass Medical School is the first and only public medical school in Massachusetts, and is perennially ranked among the top 10 percent in the nation for primary care education by U.S. News & World Report. UMMS is ranked 32nd nationally in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

AIWF Benefactor Partner PepsiCo: AIWF extends warmest appreciation to Sanjeev Chadha on his retirement as Chairman of PepsiCo AMENA and congratulates Mike Spanos on his appointment as CEO of PepsiCo AMENA

AIWF wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the invaluable support and generous endorsement of **Sanjeev Chadha**, Chairman of PepsiCo AMENA, who retired in March 2018 after 28 extremely rewarding years with PepsiCo. AIWF also wishes to extend its warmest congratulations to **Mike Spanos** on his recent appointment as CEO of PepsiCo AMENA effective January 2018.

In a statement announcing his retirement, Mr Chadha said: "I am extremely proud of what my teams and our partners have achieved across Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Africa. Proud of being true to our philosophy of 'Performance with Purpose'. Proud of the brands and businesses we've built and of being the fastest growing Food & Beverage company in our developing & emerging world. Proud of the significant contributions we've made in multiple communities and countries over these years. Above all, I am most proud of our outstanding people. Talented. Passionate. High integrity. 'World citizens'. People who firmly believe in 'leading with purpose', and are committed to help make our world a better place."

He said: "On a personal level, I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work closely with so many countries, get to know such diverse people and cultures, and build deep relationships with amazing people from across the world over my nearly three memorable decades with PepsiCo."

After taking some time off, Mr Chadha will be focussing his energies and experience "towards making greater progress on some of the most pressing social challenges facing our developing and emerging world today".

PepsiCo announced in December 2017 that **Mike Spanos**, then President of PepsiCo Greater China Region, had been appointed Chief Executive Officer, Asia, Middle East and North Africa (AMENA), and that Sanjeev Chadha, previously the Chief Executive Officer of AMENA, would become Chairman of AMENA through the end of Q1 2018, with both Mr Spanos and Mr Chadha reporting directly to PepsiCo Chairman and CEO **Indra Nooyi**.



Sanjeev Chadha Former Chairman of PepsiCo AMENA



Mike Spanos CEO of PepsiCo AMENA

Mr Spanos has had a notable career at PepsiCo, spanning 24 years with posts in the US, Europe and Asia. Prior to leading PepsiCo's China business, he led the sales organization across PepsiCo's North America Beverages portfolio, and served as SVP and General Manager for the West Business Unit of the company's beverage operations. Previously, Mr Spanos held various sales and GM roles, including Country Manager for Turkey and VP of Sales and Food Service for The Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc.

The Board of the International Women's Forum extends its sincere congratulations to Mr Spanos on his appointment as CEO AMENA, PepsiCo, and its warmest wishes to Mr Chadha on his retirement. AIWF reiterates its utmost appreciation to Mr Chadha, Mr Spanos, and to the PepsiCo family, especially **Mr Omar Farid**, President of Middle East & Africa at PepsiCo, and **Ms Rania Rizk**, SVP & General Counsel PepsiCo AMENA & AIWF Co-Chair, for the years of friendship, support and partnership they have extended to AIWF which has been so instrumental to AIWF's successes in empowering women and youth in the MENA region and beyond.

AIWF Global & Institutional Partners

The Arab International Women's Forum wishes to acknowledge our Global Partners who share the AIWF mission and whose endorsement, cooperation and participation helps AIWF to activate its agenda for business growth, change and development for women in the MENA region and beyond. AIWF is proud to have the confidence of our Benefactor Partner **PepsiCo**, and the support of all Global Partners on this occasion and on all AIWF initiatives.

AIWF Benefactor Partner



AIWF Global Platinum Partners



AIWF Global Diamond Partners



AIWF Institutional Partners



AIWF Global Communications Partner



‘Women in the Driving Seat’: AIWF Benefactor Partner PepsiCo on economic opportunities for Saudi women



Satyavrat Pendharkar

VP and GM, Gulf and Levant Foods, PepsiCo

The reforms that Saudi Arabia has experienced so far in 2018 have laid the groundwork for the road the Kingdom will travel in years to come. While opening up entertainment will undoubtedly change the social landscape of the country, there is one new law in particular that will have a significant impact on the nation's economy – allowing women to drive. Being able to get into a car and go is something that many of us take for granted. The ability to drive offers us convenience, flexibility, choice, freedom, and, most importantly, opportunity. This is something that many women in Saudi Arabia are experiencing for the first time.

Lifting the ban on women's driving marked a momentous occasion in Saudi Arabia. It also represented a vital step towards meeting the objectives laid out in the Thriving Economy pillar of Saudi Vision 2030, and to realizing a diversified economy. Being empowered to self-drive will increase access to employment for women who previously had to rely on potentially costly hired drivers or ride-hailing services, or who did not live within easy access of job opportunities. When women work, economies thrive; according to UN Women, 'An increase in female labor force participation—or a reduction in the gap between women's and men's labor force participation—results in faster economic growth.' As of last year, only 22 per cent of the workforce in Saudi Arabia comprised women, but now, with cars of their own, women can venture further afield to find meaningful employment. Money that would previously have been dedicated to either a family driver or taxi service can now be invested elsewhere.

To revert to the goals of Saudi Vision 2030, the country aims, amongst a number of ambitions, to increase women's participation in the workforce to 30 per cent, and to lower the rate of overall

unemployment to 7 per cent. Increasing women's mobility will no doubt contribute to this for the above-mentioned reasons, but there is also a role for the private sector to play in ensuring that there are plenty of job opportunities available for eager women. PepsiCo has long been a keen supporter of creating opportunities for women to not only work, but to experience a thriving career with potential to grow, both professionally and personally. To date, 15 per cent of our employees in Saudi Arabia are women, and we aim to create a workplace environment that provides even more opportunities to everyone. As part of our commitment to support the Saudi Vision 2030 Women Empowerment Agenda, we wanted to prepare our female colleagues to hit the road when the driving ban lifted on June 24th, 2018. More than 45 women from our head office and plant in Riyadh joined us for a driving simulation, giving them the chance to learn how to control a vehicle in a safe environment.

Additionally, PepsiCo announced that it will take care of all the expenses associated with driving training and license issuance. We're also planning to invite women to join our Saudi-wide team as drivers of sales vehicles and forklifts, opening up an entirely new range of job possibilities that were previously gender-restricted. This aligns with our commitment to being an equal opportunities employer on a global scale, as guided by the principles of our Performance with Purpose strategy. Through this, we aim – amongst other intentions – to develop and maintain an exceptional talent base, to create a workforce that reflects the diversity of our consumers and local communities, and to respect human rights throughout our value chain.

In order to ensure that we provide gainful employment to as many women as possible in Saudi Arabia, we hire women across all functions as managers, engineers and on the frontlines, where they work on a specifically developed ladies-only packaging line in our plants. Today there are dozens of women working in what is fondly called the 'Pink Line', with many more working throughout our offices, warehouses and facilities elsewhere in the Kingdom. We have even established a nursery in our Riyadh office to provide mothers with the support and encouragement they need to return to the workforce, with the knowledge that their children are safe and sound.

Women bring immense value to the workplace, the community, and the economy. PepsiCo understands this, which is why we are determined to ensure equal opportunities within our company, and why we are so proud of the changes that Saudi Arabia is making. By acknowledging the immense potential of women, in PepsiCo, in Saudi Arabia, and worldwide, we are setting ourselves on a path of positive growth for the benefit of not only our business or national economies, but for the benefit of global society.

AIWF Board Member Chiara Corazza to chair Women's Forum Global Meeting in Paris on 'Bridging Humanity for Inclusive Progress'

AIWF Board Member and Managing Director of the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society **Chiara Corazza** will chair the Women's Forum Global Meeting in Paris on 14-16 November 2018.



Chiara Corazza Managing Director of the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society and AIWF Board Member

Over two days, the Women's Forum Global Meeting 2018 programme will examine global social and economic issues through the lens of connecting people and bridging humanity, recognising that divisions have widened the distance between countries, political parties, religions, amongst institutions and within communities. The Global Meeting will therefore highlight connections amongst different groups, points of view, experiences, institutions and leaders, as a means of moving towards more inclusive progress that enables humanity to bridge those divides, generating impact and promoting women's leadership on these issues. Throughout the Women's Forum Global Meeting, delegates, partners and speakers will together take part in moving forward the dialogue on bridging humanity for inclusive progress and inspiring each other to engage for impact.

The Women's Forum for the Economy & Society is a leading platform dedicated to highlighting women's voices and perspectives on global issues that brings a distinctly female perspective to addressing the issues affecting all of humanity and engaging for impact toward resolutions. Headquartered in Paris with global influence, the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society manifests a commitment to women's leadership and progress throughout the year with a range of initiatives in partnership with businesses, cultural and media leaders and non-governmental organisations. The yearly Global Meeting in Paris has become an unmissable date on the international

conference calendar, with a powerful network that unleashes women's leadership and empowers leaders – both women and men – to make a difference, and to build bridges between generations, countries and cultures.

AIWF is always proud to support its valued Board Member Chiara Corazza in her important efforts as Managing Director of the Women's Forum for the Society & Economy, and looks forward to attending the Women's Forum Global Meeting 2018 in Paris later this year.

Women's Forum Global Meeting 2018 highlights and registration benefits will include:

- 2000 influential business, institutional and political leaders from more than 90 countries, gathering to engage in high-level debates and move towards concrete solutions
- Plenary, Breakout and Agora sessions, Workshops, and numerous other session formats
- Access to the Discovery, our renowned creativity space, unique to the Women's Forum Global Meeting, whose specially designed lounges and dedicated settings will host a series of inspiring conversations and master classes
- Networking opportunities over the three days of the Meeting (14-16 November 2018)
- Access to the Women's Forum Global Network of 5000 active members for a year.

"We believe women are the bridge to a more inclusive and vibrant society, built by recognising their perspectives on humanity's challenges and realising their leadership potential. Women have been under-represented in public and private sector leadership roles, creating a vacuum of female voices in debates about global challenges. Today's pressing issues need gendered views to animate debates, provide fresh opinions and create the conditions for action. Inspired by women's leadership, the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society will bring a distinctly female perspective to defining strategies to bridge humanity through four pillars and a range of format and sessions."

*Chiara Corazza, Managing Director,
Women's Forum for the Economy & Society*

Registration for the Women's Forum Global Meeting 2018 is now open and friends of AIWF can attend the Forum with a special corporate rate of 3000 EUR (+20% VAT) per person (instead of 4000 EUR +20% VAT) per person. To register at the corporate rate, please enter the following code in the Registration code field of the registration page: **PA53NACAIWF**. To access the registration page, please visit: <http://womensforum.mediactive-events.com/Registration/>

AIWF pays tribute to Founder Board Member Ambassador Samiha Abou Steit

The Board of AIWF was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of its beloved and valued Founder Board Member **Ambassador Samiha Abou Steit** who passed away earlier this year in Egypt. Ambassador Abou Steit was an inspirational woman leader who so generously shared her knowledge and expertise in AIWF's founding years and was wholly dedicated to the AIWF mission to break down barriers and support women and young people in the economy and in business, in Egypt, the broader Arab world and internationally. She will be deeply missed.

AIWF Global Partner Vistra appoints Jane Pearce as Chief Quantum Officer

AIWF extends its warmest congratulations to **Jane Pearce** on her exciting and much-deserved appointment as Chief Quantum Officer at AIWF Global Partner **Vistra**, which will undoubtedly open new doors for senior female executives not only within the Vistra group but also within the industry. Jane joined Vistra as the Managing Director of the Jersey office in June 2015 and has led the corporate, fund administration and private client trust business on the Island. Jane began her career in accountancy with Ernst & Young in 1991, has worked in the corporate and funds industry for over 20 years and has extensive experience of administering and accounting for complex investment structures. Until mid 2014, Jane was a Partner and Group Director of the Ogier Group, one of the largest offshore law and fiduciary firms at that time. Between leaving Ogier and joining Vistra, Jane worked as a consultant to the States of Jersey, Chief Minister's Department as part of the team considering the proposed changes to Jersey's regulatory environment for the funds industry. Jane has also held senior positions with Kleinwort Benson, Deutsche bank and Gartmore.

She is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant, and holds a BA degree from Jordanhill College and a DMS in Management (Marketing) from Teesside University. The Board of the Arab International Women's Forum wishes Jane the very best in this important appointment and looks forward to working ever more closely with her and her outstanding team at Vistra towards the shared mission for women in the professions in the MENA region and internationally.



Jane Pearce Chief Quantum Officer, Vistra, speaking at the 9th Young Arab Women Leaders conference held in Fez, Morocco in April 2017

AIWF Global Partner Vistra Named One of the 2018 eprivateclient Top Trust Companies

AIWF Global Partner Vistra has been named one of the 2018 eprivateclient Top Trust Companies in the Tier 1 category following an in-depth look at the leading fiduciary service providers for private clients across the globe.

Over 100 trust companies were surveyed for this list, and the rankings are based on data received on areas such as number of client facing directors, number of client facing trust officers/managers, total number of staff and fee income. There are three Tiers, which are not based on size alone but on reputation, quality of service, how the firm has fared in the past 12 months, mergers & acquisition activity, how they are viewed by other bodies and publications, and the extent of their UK offering.

Jane Pearce, then Managing Director, Vistra (Jersey) Limited and Simon Morgan, Director & Head of Private Clients, Vistra (Jersey) Limited attended the reception for the winners in London on 25 June 2018. AIWF congratulates Vistra on this much-deserved award and is deeply appreciative of its close collaboration over the last two years with Jane and with Heba Al Emara, Associate Director, Head of Middle East Relations, Vistra UK, both of whom were instrumental in the realisation of the important partnership between AIWF and Vistra.

AIWF congratulates Dr Hafez Ghanem on his appointment as Vice President Africa, The World Bank



Dr Hafez Ghanem Vice President Africa, The World Bank

The Board of the Arab International Women's Forum congratulates **Dr Hafez Ghanem** on his recent appointment announced in July 2018 to the exciting role of Vice President for Africa, The World Bank.

Dr Ghanem, a development expert with over 30 years of experience, leads an active regional portfolio consisting of over 600 projects totaling more than \$71 billion. Under his leadership, the World Bank supports inclusive growth and poverty reduction by financing projects that boost human capital, support private sector development, raise agricultural productivity, improve access to infrastructure, build resilience to climate change, and promote regional integration. Intensifying assistance for fragile and conflict-affected states, promoting gender equality, and providing economic opportunities for youth are core to his vision for the Africa Region.

Prior to his appointment as Vice President for Africa, Dr Ghanem served as Vice President of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa from 2015 to 2018, overseeing the World Bank's engagement with 20 countries. Leading up to this, he was a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in the Global Economy and Development program leading the Arab economies project, focused on the impact of political transition on Arab economic development.

The Board extends its very best wishes to Dr Ghanem in his new role and acknowledges the invaluable

partnership and generous cooperation extended to AIWF by him as Vice President MENA towards AIWF's key initiatives over the years, which together with the longstanding support of the World Bank, have been instrumental to AIWF's success.

AIWF looks forward to continuing to work closely with Dr Ghanem and his outstanding team, honouring the highly successful AIWF-World Bank partnership, and lending all support possible as Dr Ghanem launches his important work and strategy to promote economic and social development cohesion in Africa, in line with the World Bank's commitment to supporting and nurturing opportunities, security and prosperity for young people globally.

Jordan's Ministry of Social Development signs MoU with Haseel for Sustainable Agriculture, led by AIWF Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani, to innovate farming in the MENA Region

Haifa Al Kaylani's sustainable agriculture initiative, a key outcome of her year at Harvard as a Fellow of the Advanced Leadership Initiative in 2017, aims to find viable solutions to critical food and water security challenges.

The Ministry of Social Development in Jordan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Haseel for Sustainable Agriculture, chaired by **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, to implement an innovative sustainable agriculture and development project in the northern region of the Jordan Valley, in line with the Ministry's strategic plan to encourage and support institutions and companies to establish development projects in underprivileged and rural areas.

The agreement, signed by the Minister of Social Development **HE Hala Lattouf** and Mrs Al Kaylani, Chair of the company's Board of Directors, aims to promote local development and combat poverty through investment in agricultural land to build the capacity of the people in the region and train them to use modern farming methods, in addition to cooperating with charities for the purpose of production and marketing

Minister Lattouf said the agreement targets agricultural areas to create job opportunities and train people, especially youth, on smart farming methods. Mrs Al Kaylani, a development economist, the Founder and Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum based in London, and a Commissioner of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work,

completed the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative in 2017 during which time she was able to develop her keen interest in food, water and energy security challenges. Haseel is a key outcome of Mrs Al Kaylani's Harvard ALI Fellowship, and she is committed to innovating the MENA farming industry in order to find viable solutions to the challenges of water and food security and the use of modern technology in agriculture in the Arab world.

Haseel is working to develop a unique social enterprise model that will deliver a blueprint for sustainable agriculture initiatives and practices across the MENA region, which will introduce modern 21st century technology and innovation to the oldest industry in the world – farming. The Jordan social enterprise project aims to establish a farm of one hectare in the Jordan Valley area producing high yield fruits and vegetables and opening new markets for export.

The project will enhance food security; conserve scarce water resources; create job opportunities for local communities, for men and women, including refugees. It will provide jobs for youth in entrepreneurial and technology-based agricultural enterprises, create economic opportunities, and importantly it will foster equilibrium between rural and urban communities which is vital for social cohesion and stability. Mrs Al Kaylani has indicated that the company will use hydroponic technology in smart agriculture throughout the year to provide 60% of water in the northern region.

The project in Jordan is designed to be scaled and replicated across the wider MENA region in the years to come. Importantly the project can act as a driver for change, demonstrating new models and, inspiring others to invest in smart agriculture. The project has already gained local support in Jordan following Mrs Al Kaylani's visits to Amman in July 2017 to the Ministers of Water, Agriculture and Social Development, as well as local farming communities and multinationals such as **PwC** who will prepare the project feasibility study; **PepsiCo**, already deeply involved in agribusiness in the region; and the **World Bank**, which has agreed to provide funding for the project in the form of a grant.

Mrs Al Kaylani said: "Following my year at Harvard and working towards the launch of my sustainable agriculture social enterprise project, I have this week set up a non-profit LLC, Haseel for Sustainable Agriculture, of which I am proud to be the Chairman of the Board of Directors. We have found an outstanding Jordanian project manager to implement the project, and we this week signed the MoU for the land between the Ministry of Social Development and Haseel, in the Jordan Valley Northern Aghwar. We will be creating fifteen jobs immediately from the outset and are



Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani, Chair of Haseel for Sustainable Agriculture, signs MoU with the Jordan Ministry of Social Development

working hard to implement all infrastructure by the end of August 2018 in order to plant in September and yield our first harvest in November 2018." Mrs Al Kaylani continued: "The strength of the project is that it is small, affordable, doable, scalable and actionable. The ultimate aim of this project is to inspire others to replicate the initiative in other parts of the MENA region, with a focus on sustainable agriculture and providing viable solutions to the Arab world's food and water security challenges."

AIWF Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani attends Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit in London in June 2018



JCCI Vice Chair Lama Alsulaiman, photo courtesy of Fortune Most Powerful Women © Peter Dench/Fortune MPW

AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** attended the Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit in London on 11-12 June 2018, joining female change makers from the UK, Europe, and beyond to exchange ideas and forge new alliances. The two day summit, which started as a Fortune conference and has evolved into a preeminent community of women leaders in business and beyond, was packed with networking, breakout discussions, and engaging content built around interviews and conversations.

The MPW London Summit was a fantastic gathering of the most powerful women across business, philanthropy, government, and the arts, with a

programme that included conversations with included JCCI Vice Chair **Lama Alsulaiman**, photographer **Anita Corbin**, IBM Asia Pac Head **Harriet Green**, **The Baroness Jenkin of Kennington**, **The Baroness Kingsmill CBE**, Legal & General Head of Personal Investing **Helena Morrissey**, **Frances Osborne**, Goldman Sachs Asset Management International CEO **Sheila Patel**, M&G Investments CEO **Anne Richards**, and Vodafone Chief Commercial Operations and Strategy Officer **Serpil Timuray**, as well as leaders from Aviva, BP, Daimler, HSBC, Mastercard, Old Mutual, Time Warner, and many other prominent companies.

This is the third consecutive year that Mrs Al Kaylani has attended the Fortune MPW Summit in London. For AIWF, the MPW Summit is always an excellent opportunity to connect with female change makers in the UK, Europe, and beyond to exchange ideas and forge new alliances, highlighting the issues that are at the top of the agenda for every company in a rapidly changing business and political environment. AIWF greatly looks forward to the 2019 Fortune MPW Summit in London and extends its full support and appreciation on this high-impact, community-driven conference series to AIWF's friends at Fortune.

Energising Economies': AIWF Board Member Raghda Kurdi attends EBRD 2018 Annual Meeting and Business Forum in Amman in May 2018

AIWF Board Member **Raghda Kurdi**, Member of the Board of Directors, Hayat Pharmaceutical Industries, Jordan, attended the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's 2018 Annual Meeting and Business Forum in Jordan on 9-10 May 2018. The Forum, themed 'Energising Economies', took place at the King Hussein bin Talal Convention Centre, located near Sweimeh overlooking one of the world's most inspiring natural landscapes, the Dead Sea.

The Forum programme aimed to engage participants with informed, sometimes provocative discussion and debate on a variety of topical issues – from business climate to economic growth, from targeted, profitable investment to environmental protection. In each of the discussions, knowledgeable, renowned speakers were brought together to assess today's state of affairs, while looking ahead to the challenges and prospects for tomorrow.

During the Forum, **Janet Heckman**, the EBRD Managing Director for the SEMED region and **Heike Harmgart**, the EBRD Director for the Eastern Mediterranean countries, provided a summary of the Bank's investments and activities across the



Photo courtesy of the Office of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan

region including in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and West Bank and Gaza. They were joined by the head of offices of Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia as well as the regional economist. EBRD President **Suma Chakrabarti** delivered an update on the meeting of the Board of Governors, the Bank's highest decision-making authority, and EBRD Chief Economist **Sergei Guriev** and **Artur Radziwill**, EBRD Director, Country Economics and Policy, presented the latest macroeconomic forecast for the EBRD regions, providing an overview of economic growth prospects and analysis of future challenges.

The EBRD Annual Business Forum attracts senior government officials, leading financial and corporate executives, and entrepreneurs large and small – as well as representatives of civil society organisations and the international and regional media. EBRD's first ever Annual Meeting and Business Forum in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region was attended by over 2,250 international delegates and was visited by **His Majesty King Abdullah II** and **Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah**, who delivered keynote addresses in the opening session.



Photo courtesy of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

AIWF has longstanding links with the EBRD and has attended its Annual Forums over several years. AIWF looks forward to even closer collaboration in the years ahead with the EBRD to nurture the longstanding ties between both organisations towards empowering and inspiring a sustainable future for women and youth in the MENA region and beyond.

New partner at AIWF Global Partner Boodle Hatfield highlights changes to the taxation of UK property for Middle Eastern investors

AIWF Global Partner Boodle Hatfield's Middle East practice welcomed **Kyra Motley** as a Partner in May. The practice, led by partners **Shaima Jillood** and **Salpy Kouyoumjian**, offers a full service to Middle Eastern clients with a clear understanding of the cultural demands of Middle Eastern individuals and their family offices.



Kyra Motley Partner, Boodle Hatfield

Kyra, who brings to the firm expertise in multi-jurisdictional wealth planning, international tax and trusts, succession planning and family governance, highlights some forthcoming changes which will affect Middle Eastern individuals who invest in property in the UK. The changes were announced by the UK Government on 6 July in the draft Finance Bill provisions which confirms that a significant change to the property tax regime applying to offshore investors will go ahead.

The draft legislation proposes that from 6 April 2019:

- Capital gains tax will be extended to cover disposals of commercial real estate and to indirect disposals (e.g. a sale of shares) of all UK land.
- Widely held companies will be within the scope of tax on disposals of both residential and commercial land, effectively bringing all corporate owners into the scope of capital gains tax on all UK real estate.
- The indirect disposal charge can arise if a non-UK resident sells an interest in a property rich vehicle (e.g. shares in a company). This charge could apply where over 75% of the vehicle's gross asset value is derived from UK land. A relief from the charge on indirect disposals may apply where the land itself has been used for UK trading purposes.

- These changes will apply to all non-resident owners - e.g. individuals, trusts, companies - although gains realised by all corporate owners will be subject to UK corporation tax rather than capital gains tax. Offshore funds and other types of collective investment scheme will also be affected, although the details are still being developed.

"Rebasing will be available on disposals of commercial land and in some other instances, meaning that historic gains should not be covered. We recommend that non-resident owners of UK residential or commercial property affected by the new rules should seek advice at the earliest available opportunity."

Kyra Motley, Partner Boodle Hatfield

Boodle Hatfield LLP is a highly successful law firm which has been in business since 1722. The firm acts for wealthy individuals, families, property owners and businesses in the United Kingdom and internationally, and is proud to offer a genuinely full service to Middle Eastern clients, with Arabic speakers across all core practice areas. AIWF reiterates its warmest thanks to Boodle Hatfield as our valued AIWF Global Partner for the invaluable and much appreciated support of AIWF's work and mission, acknowledging all the valuable work that Boodle Hatfield does to empower women in law and the professions both in the UK and the MENA region.

AIWF congratulates Professor Dr Dima Jamali, National Representative of the Global Compact Network Lebanon, on being one of six women voted into the Lebanese Parliament in May 2018 Lebanese Elections

Dr Jamali is Professor of Management and Kamal Shair Endowed Chair in Responsible Leadership in the Olayan School of Business, American University of Beirut, and the National Representative of the Global Compact Network Lebanon

AIWF extends its warmest congratulations to Professor Dr Dima Jamali on recently becoming a Member of the Lebanese Parliament in Lebanon's elections in May 2018, one of six women voted into Parliament

in Lebanon's elections in May 2018 (up from four in the previous parliament). The landmark May election saw a record 86 women run, with virtually every party putting forth female candidates.

Dr Jamali is Professor of Management and Kamal Shair Endowed Chair in Responsible Leadership in the Olayan School of Business, American University of Beirut. She holds a PhD in Social Policy and Administration, from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK. Her research and teaching revolve primarily around Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Social Entrepreneurship (SE). She is the author and/or editor of three books (CSR in the Middle East; SE in the Middle East; and CSR in Developing Countries), and over 50 international publications, focusing on different aspects of CSR and SE in the Middle East all appearing in top journals, including Journal of Business Ethics, Business Ethics Quarterly and British Journal of Management.

Dr Jamali is the winner of the 2010 Shoman Prize for best young Arab researcher and a member of the Eisenhower Fellows, a global network of leading professionals committed to collaborate for a more prosperous, just and peaceful world. Dr Jamali served as an expert consultant on projects funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA); the World Bank; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); the International Development Research Center of Canada (IDRC).

In September 2015, Dr Jamali led the launch of the Global Compact Network Lebanon (GCNL), the Lebanese national chapter of the UN Global Compact Initiative, hosted at the American University of Beirut (AUB). GCNL works closely with the UNGC Headquarters to provide opportunities for learning, policy dialogue, and partnerships on the Ten Principles of responsible conduct and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With more than 160 participants (businesses and non-businesses) enrolled in the Lebanese network to date, GCNL aims to create an engaged community that advances sustainability practices nation-wide. GCNL encourages participants to mainstream the 10 principles in their daily activities and report on their implementation; more recently, GCNL has invested significant effort and resources to mobilize businesses, civil society organizations, local authorities, and the broader Lebanese society to work together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN 2030 Agenda.

In just under three years, under Dr Jamali's leadership, the Lebanon network has grown and become one



Dr Dima Jamali Member of Lebanese Parliament; Professor of Management and Kamal Shair Endowed Chair in Responsible Leadership in the Olayan School of Business, American University of Beirut; and National Representative of the Global Compact Network Lebanon

of the most respected in the MENA Region earning advanced status by UNGC standards. GCNL works on advancing the UN 2030 agenda in Lebanon, working in close collaboration with the private sector, but also with the Chambers of Commerce and Trade, the Council of Ministers, UNDP and other players in the Lebanese ecosystem.

GCNL is constantly working on expanding the network and its members and leading through relevant activities and initiatives that not only support through capacity building and vocational trainings, focus groups and conferences, but also help in a visible way in mainstreaming sustainability and the SDGs in Lebanon.

Some of the key initiatives and themes that were spearheaded by GCNL in 2017/2018 include the following:

- **Human Rights:** ProAble: online job opportunities platform for people with disabilities
- **Anti-Corruption:** In-depth training with UNDP, Post-training advocacy groups
- **Environment:** Environmate: environmental accelerator, roundtable with Lebanon Climate Act
- **Education:** Sustainable Minds – a competition for school students aiming at raising awareness on the SDGs) Peace Building program with Search For Common Ground - stimulate the private sector engagement on peace building efforts)
- **Research, Panels and Workshops:** Multi-Stakeholder SDG Forum, Lebanon Collaboration for the SDGs, Strategizing for the SDGs Workshop, Communication on Progress-COP Workshop, SDG Focus Groups and SDG National Reports, identifying opportunities and challenges and critical priorities for action in Lebanon in relation to each SDG

One of the most remarkable milestones for GCNL has been the establishment of the first of its kind SDG Council in summer of 2017 comprising highly credible change agents and CEOs who are strongly rooted within the Lebanese community, and who are acting as national ambassadors and voices of change for these SDGs by supporting initiatives, projects and action plans relating to the specific SDG adopted.

Continuing to pave the way in the SDG field, GCNL is launching for its members the SDG Pioneers Awards and the Sustainability Label in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. GCNL also launched the AUB Pledge for the SDGs, a proposal to enhance action-oriented research around the SDGs in 2018 and to mobilize building the research infrastructure needed to support further progress on the SDGs in Lebanon.

The sustainable development agenda can only be realized with a strong commitment to partnerships at all levels between governments, the private sector, civil society and others. GCNL will continue to seize the momentum set by private sector buy-in and engagement with the SDGs and work collaboratively with other ecosystem players to help make progress in relation to the UN 2030 agenda, and ensure that no one in Lebanon is left behind.

About the UN Global Compact

The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. It is a strategic UN platform, officially launched at UN Headquarters in New York on July 26, 2000 to encourage companies around the globe to align their strategies and operations with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

To date, UNGC counts more than 75 networks across the world and more than 13000 participants, including 9000 business and 4000 non-business participants working towards a vision of a sustainable and inclusive global economy, which delivers lasting benefits to people, communities, and markets.

AIWF is exceptionally proud to be a NGO Member of the UN Global Compact, and looks forward to submitting its second Communication on Progress (COP) Report in September 2018, detailing its activities and initiatives designed to honour and support UNGC and SDG principles and objectives.

Haifa Al Kaylani, Fellow of the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative 2017, hosts evening reception for the Harvard ALI Reunion in London

The 2017 Fellows of the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative convened in London in June 2018 for a Harvard ALI Reunion six months after the completion of their intensive, year-long Fellowship at Harvard. The itinerary, organised by ALI Fellow **Louise Wilson**, was packed with excursions, private tours and special visits.



Photo courtesy of Louise Wilson, ALI Fellow 2017

The first day of the programme included private tours of Shakespeare's Globe and The Tate Modern, Mass in St Thomas More's Cell at the Tower of London, a private viewing of the Crown Jewels and a private dinner in the 900-year old White Tower, at which **The General Lord Houghton of Richmond** delivered a welcome address followed by a keynote by **Paul Polman Esq**, Chief Executive Officer, Unilever plc. On the second day of the Reunion programme, the ALI Fellows enjoyed the hospitality in the Royal Enclosure at Ascot followed by a special evening reception at the Jumeirah Carlton Tower hosted by Mrs Al Kaylani, who was delighted to welcome her ALI friends to London and to host them on this special occasion.

The following day's programme included breakfast at Kensington Palace and a private viewing of 'Diana - Her Fashion Story', followed by an architectural tour of London and a visit to the Churchill Cabinet War Rooms. The Reunion programme concluded on Thursday 21 June with a private tour of the Houses of Parliament, a private drinks reception on the Houses of Commons Terrace and a networking dinner in the private dining room at the Houses of Commons.

Mrs Al Kaylani joined the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative in January 2017 as one of 46 global leaders selected for an intensive, multi-disciplinary program and yearlong Fellowship to research and address significant social problems.

During her year at Harvard, she was able to pursue further her keen interest in food, water, energy and security challenges which are of great concern to many developing regions in the world and in particular to the MENA region.

A key outcome from her year at Harvard is Haseel, the sustainability enterprise project she has launched in pilot phase in Jordan as an innovative solution to key food and water security challenges in the Arab world. She completed the programme in December 2017 and counts the year spent in Cambridge, MA as being one of the most inspiring and transformational years in her thirty-year career as a development economist focussed on women and youth empowerment.

AIWF congratulates Jordanian scholar and scientist Dr Rana Dajani on the publication of *Five Scarves: Doing the Impossible – If We Can Reverse Cell Fate, Why Can't We Redefine Success?*

AIWF congratulates **Dr Rana Dajani** on the recent publication of her book, *Five Scarves: Doing the Impossible—If We Can Reverse Cell Fate, Why Can't We Redefine Success?*, a searching exploration of the intersections between gender, religion, and science told through the eyes of one of the world's leading Muslim women scientists.

Dr Dajani is an authority on the genetics of the Circassian and Chechen populations in Jordan. Her research focuses on genome-wide association studies concerning diabetes and cancer and on stem cells, and she has advocated the establishment of the law for stem cell research and therapy in Jordan.

Dr Dajani has written a book that documents—from the perspective of a female, Muslim, Arab scientist who has worked in various cultures—the challenges that women face in academia; how that varies across cultures, religions, and disciplines; and how women have dealt with these challenges in different ways. She will highlight how women's experiences have shaped their meanings of success.

She points to the 2006 discovery of induced pluripotent stem cells which allowed researchers to reverse engineer embryonic life forms, and asks us why a similar breakthrough might not be possible in the pursuit of gender equality. Seeking a paradigm shift in the fight against women's oppression, Dr Dajani makes the case for radically transforming the social



Dr Rana Dajani Rita Hauser Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University; Associate Professor Molecular Cell Biology, Biology Department, Hashemite University; Founder, We Love Reading

institutions, cultures, and customs of our world to fully validate and support all women.

The reader is led through the many phases of Dajani's life journey, from the bustling world of Amman to the quiet neighborhoods of Iowa City, back through Jordan's universities, schools, and refugee camps, and into the halls of Harvard, Cambridge, Grenoble, and the United Nations.

The author wears five scarves—those of a mother, teacher, scientist, social entrepreneur, and feminist. Her story tells of all the challenges she's faced and the innovations she's made in everything from genetic analysis and science pedagogy, to grassroots social change and Islamic perspectives on evolution. Finally, Dr Dajani offers a provocative and far-reaching meditation on the fight for women's liberation today and what it would take to build a truly equal and humane society.

Evelyn Fox Keller, Professor Emeritus, MIT, Program in Science, Technology and Society, author of "Reflections on Gender and Science", has called Dr Dajani's work "an absolutely wonderful read about the aspirations and achievements of a modern woman scientist in contemporary Islam", continuing: "Dajani uses her own experience to try to forge a cosmopolitan and global approach to the problems of inequality that women everywhere continue to face."

Jacqueline Bhabha, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Director of Research François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard

University; Jeremiah Smith Jr. Lecturer, Harvard Law School, has said: " With simple prose and confident strides, Dajani introduces topics as different as the challenge of creating world class scientific discovery in the Middle East, the egalitarian organization of domestic responsibilities between parents and children in quotidian family life, the long history of female scientific brilliance in the Arab world, and the extraordinary creation of a global social movement to promote the love of reading among all children."

Helen Haste, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Bath, England, Visiting Professor at Harvard Graduate School of Education, has said: "This is a wonderful book, the personal story of a warm and brilliant Jordanian cell biologist. She is passionate about her pioneering scientific work and her vision of how science should be taught to inspire young people and promote new ideas – innovation happens on the margins in all fields. She describes how she gets her students to bring art into thinking about and communicating science. She challenges many stereotypes that Westerners tend to have about Islam, the history of science, and the role of women in the Muslim professional world. This vivid book is a beautifully written inspiration to women, to scientists, to educators and to social activists everywhere."

Dr Dajani is the founder and director of the nongovernmental organization We Love Reading, for which she has earned the Library of Congress Literacy Award Best Practices, a Stars Impact Award, the Synergos Arab World Social Innovator award, a WISE Award, and recognition from IDEO.org. She has written extensively about education and women in the Arab World as well as science, and she is on the *Arabian Business World's 100 Most Powerful Arab Women List*.

In 2017, she was among seven Fulbright alumni to receive the inaugural IIE Global Changemaker Award. A 2014 Eisenhower Fellow and a member of Jordan's Order of Al Hussein for Distinguished Contributions of the Second Class, Dajani earned a PhD in molecular cell biology from the University of Iowa. She is a Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and a confirmed speaker for the upcoming AIWF / CMI high-level conference on *Women, Water & Youth* to be held in Amman, Jordan in September 2018.

AIWF wholeheartedly congratulates Dr Rana Dajani on the exciting publication of her book, and looks forward to welcoming her to the *Women, Water & Youth* conference 26-17 September in Amman, Jordan. Dr Dajani will be sharing her insight into building women's and youth capacity in the Arab water sector through edtech innovation, social enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Elisabeth Lang, AIWF member and friend, meets the Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah whilst examining new leadership opportunities for Arab women in the hospitality industry



Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah and **Elisabeth Lang** Founder of Global Links

AIWF's longstanding friend and member **Elisabeth Lang**, founder of Global Links based in Munich, Germany, has long been dedicated to promoting stronger female representation on male-dominated panels at international conferences, with an emphasis on bringing on board engaged and dynamic Arab women to bring success and credibility to global and regional events where Arab women's opportunities and challenges are explored.

Elisabeth is also deeply engaged in promoting the role of women in law in Saudi Arabia in line with the Saudi Arabia Vision 2030, and recently attended an investment conference in Ras Al Khaimah where she had the honour of meeting the Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, **Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi**.

Elisabeth is currently examining the hospitality industry in the Arab world to identify opportunities for women's leadership and empowerment. As a valued member and friend of AIWF, Elisabeth has attended many past AIWF conferences and has greatly supported AIWF's work in the region.

Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani and the Board of the Arab International Women's Forum wish her every success in her important efforts to promote the role and successes of Arab women in every sector, in both Europe and across the MENA region.



ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

AIWF IN ACTION: A development organisation leading the way forward for women in the Arab world and internationally

The Arab International Women's Forum, established in 2001 as an independent not for profit organisation, is a unique network linking Arab women with their international counterparts, showcasing their development, ability and competence in business, professional and public life, and creating greater global awareness of women's success and prospects in the Arab world.

Now in its second decade of fulfilling its founding mission of *Building Bridges, Building Business*, AIWF has been a force for change for women in the MENA region, encouraging them to take greater leadership roles and reach higher levels of responsibility in all sectors of business, public life and in civil society while at the same time contributing to the progress and prosperity of their families and communities.

AIWF has received international recognition in the Arab world and internationally as a powerful advocate of women in business for the advancement of women, and its growing role to promote and advance legislative rights for the participation of Arab women has been distinguished by collaboration with, among others, the League of Arab States, the European Commission and European Parliament, United Nations organisations and agencies, the World Bank, the MENA-OECD Investment Programme, women's business councils in the Arab States, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, International Chambers of Commerce and many globally recognised institutes of higher and further education.

AIWF could not have made the impact it has over the last decade without the support of its Global Partners: PepsiCo, Pfizer, Shell, Nama Women Advancement Establishment, PwC, Vistra, Northern Trust, and Boodle Hatfield, all committed to strong inclusiveness and diversity policies and developing and training women. Also of great importance to the work of AIWF are its MoU partnerships with the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance, the Mudara Institute of Directors, the Pearl Initiative, the Dubai Business Women Council and Memac Ogilvy.



Founder & Chairman of AIWF Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani addressing the opening session at the 10th Young Arab Women Leaders conference in London

AIWF's keystone initiative, the *Young Arab Women Leaders Conference Series* launched in 2011 by AIWF in partnership with Global Partner PwC, provides a platform for young aspiring Arab women to support, engage and network with mentors in political, economic and social leadership roles in the Arab world. AIWF is also pleased to partner with the International Bar Association Legal Practice Division (IBA/LPD) Initiative for Women Business Lawyers to develop and support women in commercial law in the Arab region and encourage more Arab women to enter into the legal profession.

Supported fully by a global network of partners, the Arab International Women's Forum continues to build on its core mission to achieve sustainable empowerment for women and youth and to champion a concerted drive at the highest levels to advance gender equality in the Arab world.

How to join AIWF

To add your information to the AIWF mailing list to receive news and updates, or to update your existing contact or member information, please email the AIWF Office in London at info@aiwfonline.com

To join AIWF, please visit www.aiwfonline.com

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Date of next issue

The next edition of the AIWF Newsletter will be published in November 2018. AIWF Global Partners, members and contacts are kindly requested to contact the Editor at info@aiwfonline.com on or before 15 October 2018 to contribute articles, photos and news.