



SIXTH FORUM FOR BUSINESSWOMEN IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
Under the kind patronage of HRH Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa,
Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women

Kingdom of Bahrain, 12th – 14th December 2012
Theme “Development of Entrepreneurship among Women and Youth”

Report

Preamble:

In its endeavours for the economic empowerment of women, the ICCIA has organized the 6th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain from 12th to 14th December 2012. The Forum was organized in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB), Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Investment & Technology Promotion Office (ITPO), Bahrain, Bahrain Businesswomen’s Society (BBS) Bahrain, Bahrain Businesswomen’s Society (BBS), Bahrain Supreme Council for Women, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and Bahrain Development Bank (BDB).

The Forum was held under the kind patronage of HRH Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women and was attended by around 150 participants from 36 Member Countries, representatives of Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group and some other local and international institutions.

Objectives of the Forum:

The objectives of the Sixth Forum were to create in the long run platform for businesswomen to share their experiences and know-how, discuss new ideas, to identify business opportunities and to link up with potential business partners. It was an appropriate platform for international cooperation, with each country being able to acquire specific know-how from possible partners, as well as sharing intercultural competence and innovative ideas and pursuing cultural exchange. It is not only political and economic developments which will drive the increasing links between the OIC Member Countries, but also the cultural, scientific and transnational projects taking place between the regions and across the whole area.

Inaugural Session:

The Forum was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Shaikha Mariyam Bint Hassan Al-Khalifa, Representative HRH Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Vice President of the Bahrain

Supreme Council for Women on 12th December 2012 at the premises of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, with the recitation from the Holy Quran. It was attended by a large number of participants, including Ministers, diplomats and civil society, local media. The following dignitaries also addressed the Forum.

Speeches delivered by:

- HE Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain
- H.E. Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Arab Regional Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment Training
- H.E. Dr. Essam Fakhro, President of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Message of H.E. Dr. Hassan Fakhro, Minister of Industry & Commerce, Kingdom of Bahrain, delivered by Mrs. Eman Ahmed Al Dossary, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade
- Thank you message of H.E. Shaikh Saleh Bin Abdullah Kamel, President of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture delivered by Mrs. Attiya Nawazish Ali, Assistant Secretary General, ICCIA

This was then followed by exchange of momentous and gifts.

Thereafter, two key note addresses were made by the following:-

- Mrs. Ahlam Janahi, President of the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society
- Mrs. Begum Salma Ahmed, President, Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Vice-President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Presentation of Papers:

The Program of two days, of the Forum was designed to cover all aspects of the theme, namely "Development of Entrepreneurship among Women and Youth". The Forum, apart from presentation of papers, also encouraged a dialogue between the presenters and the audience. There were a Plenary Session on "National Organizations Role in Supporting Women Economic Empowerment" followed by five technical sessions. The speakers made very informative and useful presentations, each in her/ his domain, which were followed by a question/answer session.

Copies of the presentations made by power point or in written are enclosed.

The Plenary Session was moderated by Mrs. Mariam Ahmad Jamaan, Supreme Council for Women Member and following were in the panel discussion:

- Mrs. Rana Ahmad Khalifa, Director Programs & Projects Supreme Council for Women, Bahrain

- Mrs. Ebtisam Abdulla Fariaa, Director of Women Information Center, Supreme Council for Women, Bahrain
- Mrs. Rima Al Kilani, Bahrain Economic Development Board as Director of Global Marketing, Women Gateway
- Dr. Amany Asfour, President, Egyptian Business Women Association
- Dr. Gulden Turktan, President, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey

TECHNICAL SESSION-1 :

Entrepreneurship Development for Women:

Role of UNIDO: Women Entrepreneurs Ambassadors and success stories

Moderator: Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head UNIDO ITPO / ARCEIT Bahrain

Mrs. Aysha Mubarak, Entrepreneurs Ambassador and Member of the Bahrain Shura Council

Mrs. Ibtisam Hejres, Entrepreneurs Ambassador and Member of the Bahraini Parliament

Mrs. Ahlam Janahi, Entrepreneurs Ambassador and President of Bahrain Businesswomen's Society

Mrs. Huda Janahi, Entrepreneurs Ambassador and CEO Global cargo Services

Mrs. Afnan Al Zayani, Entrepreneurs Ambassador and President of the MENA Businesswomen's Network

TECHNICAL SESSION-2 :

Role of Educational Institutions & Universities in Developing Entrepreneurship Culture:

Moderator: H.E. Prof. Dr. Mazin Jumaah, President of the Royal University for Women, "The Role of Academia in Entrepreneurship: Case Study: Royal University for Women Model:

Dr. Suhair H. Al Qurashi, President of the Dar Al Hekma College, Jeddah Principal.

Dr. Rana Raddawi, Associate Professor, Department of English, American University of Sharjah

Dr. Mona Mwalla, Vice Dean Faculty of Economics & Administrative Sciences, Yarmouk University-Jordan

Mrs. Fadwa Sulieman Hussein, Director Sulieman Hussein Academy, Sudan

Role of OIC and its Institutions:- Entrepreneurship as a means to inclusive growth and development:

Moderator: Mrs. Attiya Nawazish Ali, Assistant Secretary General, ICCIA

Presentation on ICCIA's Businesswomen Information Network (ICCIABIN)

Ms. Kristonia Lockhart Manager NGO Gender Development, Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB))

TECHNICAL SESSION-3:

Financing Alternatives:

Moderator: Ms. Kristonia Lockhart, Manager NGO Gender Development, Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB)

Dr. Waheed Al Qassem, CEO Ebdaa Bank Bahrain

Mr. James Gohary, Regional Manager, Financial Markets & PE Funds Middle East & North Africa (MENA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group

Ms. Zainab Saeed, Manager Internal and External Engagement, KASHF Foundation (Pakistan)

Ms. Lejla Sunagic, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Nawaf Abdulelah Al Yusuf, Senior Manager Project Finance, Bahrain Development Bank

Dr. Josiane Fahed Sreih, Associate Professor of Management & Director, Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business, Lebanon

TECHNICAL SESSION-4:

Essentials for Business: Marketing, Financing, Outreach, Web-Marketing:

Moderator: Mrs Attiya Nawazish Ali, Assistant Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture

Mrs. Khayria Dashti, Secretary General Arab Businesswomen Council

Madam Eng. Widad Yagoub, President, Family Bank Sudan

Mrs. Salem Awa Fall, Representative, Warda Group, Mauritania

Mrs. Afnan Al Zayani, President of the MENA Businesswomen's Network

TECHNICAL SESSION-5:

Country Papers:

Role of Business Support Organization in Developing Entrepreneurship:

Moderator: Mr. Afif Barhoumi, Program Coordinator UNIDO ARCEIT, Bahrain

H.E. Shaikha Wafa Al Khalifa, Director of the Al Jassra Handicraft Center, Bahrain

Mrs. Selima Ahmed (Bangladesh)

Ms. Awahou Codjo (Benin)

Ms. Mona Ghalayini (Lebanon),

Mrs. Asna Fall, Senior Economist / Gender Specialist, Chairperson of PROXIDEV (Senegal),

Mrs. Zhdanova Tatyana, Vice-President, Kazakhstan Chamber and Director, LLP "Esberg Enterprises Kazakhstan".

Ms. Shatha Rashid Aljalahma Manager Women Business Incubator, Bahrain

Closing Session & Press Conference:

After in-depth discussions on papers presented and a B2B session the Forum concluded with the holding of a Press Conference. During the Press Conference, the final Recommendations were read out in Arabic and English. Thereafter the floor was open to the journalists for question answers and the participants were also invited to give their views and proposals, if any, on the recommendations.

Sidelines Activities:

The organizers were keen to show the participants the historical valuable sites of Bahrain and thus some visits were arranged to some important historical sites, such as the National Museum of Bahrain, the Bahrain Historical Fortress, the Old City of Muharrag, King Fahad Causeway and shopping tour to the Manama Traditional Souqe. These visits were highly appreciated by the participants.
