AICTO is organizing, in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Communications - Sudan & in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank group

Arab Forum

Empowering Arab Women through ICT

Venue: Al Salam Rotana hotel - Khartoum - Sudan
Date: 14 October 2014
Program

08:30 - 09:00: Registration
09:00 - 09:30: official opening

HE/Dr. Tahani Abdalla Attia Minister of Science and Communications - Sudan
HE/Mrs. khédiya Ghariani Secretary-General - Arab ICT Organization
Advisor / Mr. Mohamed Khair Abdulkader
Director of Arab Organizations and Unions, the league of Arab States

09:30 - 10:15
Panel 1:
“The right of Arab women to e-access: a multi-stakeholder responsibility”

It has been globally admitted that the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is one of the major drivers of social and economic growth.

Indeed, and considering the large advantages provided by such a strategic and development tool, an e-access for all must be provided to ensure an equitable Information Society (IS). Moreover, access to Internet was declared by the United Nations as a basic human right.

Nevertheless, the gender digital divide remains very important within the Arab region, namely in rural areas.

Today, efforts should be doubled to consolidate the right of Arab women to an e-access. The latter being a multi-stakeholder responsibility, this panel will assemble representatives from all relevant parties, namely the Public and Private sectors, Civil Society, Regional and International Organizations to give their opinions and share their future visions.

Panel moderator:
HE/Mrs. khédiya Ghariani Secretary-General - Arab ICT Organization

Speakers:
Mrs. Rim Belhaj
Telecom engineer - Hubert H. Humphrey Alumna ISET’Com, Republic of Tunisia
Mrs. Imen Baccouche
CEO & Founder - Med-Training, Republic of Tunisia
Dr. Osama Ahmad Ibrahim
Assistant professor, Sudan University for Science & Technology- Director of software Smart Solutions company

10:15 - 11:00
Panel 2:
Bridging the “Gender Digital Divide”: current situation and future prospects

While there is a wide recognition of the potential of ICT as a tool for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, a new “Gender Divide” has been identified resulting from the weak rates of women accessing and using ICT compared with men, referred to as a “Gender Digital Divide”.

This panel will address relevant issues, namely:
- The current situation of the “Gender Digital Divide” in the Arab region.
- Ways to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in the field of ICT.
- Prospects for bridging the “Gender Digital Divide” in the Arab region.
- Mechanisms to remove existing barriers between women and ICTs.

Panel moderator:
Mrs. Azza Omar Awadh Al Kharim Abu Sen
Director of Khartoum electronic Media Center (State minister, ministry of communication, previously)

Speakers:
Dr. Yacine Hadj Abidine
General Director of the Central Authority for Statistics, Republic of Sudan
Dr. Nesrine Bechir Othman
Head of computer science department, Bayan College for Science & Technology, Republic of Sudan
Eng. Toutou Ely Salem
Director of the ICT Regulation - Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training, ICT - Mauritania

11:00 - 11:15: Coffee break
Panel 3:  
**ICT : a basic tool for women’s social and economic development**

The major role played by ICT in empowering women socially and economically is basically due to the relevant potential in fostering knowledge and communication through adequate networking tools. Such tools are used to connect women to new markets, enlarge their social networks and provide them with valuable information and new important economic opportunities.

**This panel will discuss:**
- How access to ICT can promote sustainable socio-economic development for women?
- Potential opportunities for women’s socio-economic empowerment.
- ICT as a tool for the empowerment of Women at the socio-economic level:
  - Enhancing their competitive skills.
  - Enabling them to face challenges and increase their effectiveness.

**Panel moderator:**
- Dr. Huwayda Ali Abdelkader Ahmed  
  Vice dean of Computer Science College, Sudan University for Science & Technology

**Speakers:**
- Dr. Wissal Mudather Altankari  
  Computer dept. Sudan Academy for Banking & Financial Science
- Prof. Dr. Ezzedine Mohamed Othman  
  Sudan University for Science & Technology - College of Computer Studies and Information Technology
- Dr. Atika Youssef Al Mubarek  
  Education technology dept, college of education, Sudan University for Science & Technology

Round table:  
**ICT: Promising prospects for female entrepreneurs**

The experiences of many countries around the world clearly show that ICT play a key role in empowering female entrepreneurs and providing new opportunities to strengthen their businesses. Using mobile phones, digital platforms, radio, TV, blogs and the Internet, women entrepreneurs are reaching out to customers and building their businesses in ways they could not do before.

Women entrepreneurs who use ICT appropriately and effectively can run a more efficient business and reach markets that were previously unimaginable.

This panel will explore this matter further by answering the following questions:
- How effective the use of ICT can really help Arab women entrepreneurs to overcome several barriers?
- Could ICT play a crucial role in empowering women entrepreneurs in the Arab region?
- Can the lack of ICT skills lead to deepen the “gender gap”: reality & remedies?

**Panel moderator:**
- Mr. Eng. Mohamed Abderrahim  
  General Manager, National information Center, ministry of science and communication, Sudan
- Mrs. Rakia Baccouche Khabthani  
  International Cooperation Manager - Arab ICT Organization

**Speakers:**
- Dr. Nadia Mustapha Eidrous  
  Manager of the Information and documentation center, National Research Center, Republic of Sudan
- Dr. Malak Haj Taher Moussa  
  Vice dean for student affairs, group of medical colleges, Karari University, Sudan
- Dr. Maamer Ali Ibrahim Mohamed  
  Legal advisor, National Communication Authority, ministry of science and communication, Republic of Sudan
- Mrs. Rim Belhaj  
  Telecom engineer - Hubert H. Humphrey Alumna ISET’Com - Republic of Tunisia
- Mrs. Imen Baccouche  
  CEO & Founder - Med-Training - Republic of Tunisia

Closing & recommendations