مشروع: تنمية قدرات المرأة العربية في مجال تكنولوجيات الإتصال والتعليمات

"Empowering Arab Women through ICT"

www.aicto.org
**Project overview**

Today, we are living within an era of Information Society (IS), where countries’ progress is assessed according to their degree of advancement in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), since ICT sector is deemed as being the best strategic tool for development.

Unfortunately, development hasn’t been achieved on an equal level and an important digital divide is a fact between countries, and inside the country separating the ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’. Furthermore, and when it comes to the women’s status within the Information Society (IS), and according to the latest UN reports, there is a huge digital divide between men and women.

This divide exists at the global level since the number of women able to use Internet has been estimated to be 200 million less than men. The same report warns that this difference could reach 250 million women during the next 5 years if the adequate measures haven’t been taken. For instance, the average of women having mobile phones is estimated to be 21% less than men, which means that there’s a digital divide between women and men affecting more than 300 million women.

In the Arab region, and in spite of the women’s position has been continuously consolidated within the society, the digital divide between men and women exists in many countries according to the same report and the Arab Advisers’ statement. According to these statistics, the rate of men using e-commerce services in 2013 is well ahead the women’s rate in the region.

**Main Objectives**

- Reducing the digital divide between men and women being considered as a development gap, and help women take advantage of the ICT opportunities available through e-work.
- Improving the rates of ICT use by Arab women namely in rural areas which will help reducing the inequity in opportunities in other fields.
- Empowering Arab women in ICT building their capacities through adequate training, e-commerce, a marketing for small project creators, participate in on-line forums...

**Project components**

- Leading a survey to assess the Arab women’s access to ICT.
- Empowering Arab women through ICT.
- Promoting innovation & leadership among Arab girls & women through ICT.
- Launching an award for the best pilot project in ICT.

**Bonified Countries**

All Arab countries, with priority to the least developed ones in the ICT field.

**Estimated Budget**

925,000 USD

**Involvement Parties**

In cooperation with:
- Islamic Development Bank Group & Arab Women Organization

Main players in this project:
- Arab ICT & Women Ministries
- Women organizations & associations in the Arab region
- The Arab ICT Organization
- Arab Private sector (Operating in the ICT field)
- Banking institutions in the Arab region

**Estimated Duration**

- Start date: 2008
- Estimated end date: 2017

**Main achievements**

- Empowering Arab women through ICT
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**Main benefits**

- Bidding the gender gap in ICT through e-work.
- Empowering Arab women through ICT.
- Providing opportunities for Arab girls & women through ICT.
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