

# AIWF JORDAN SEMINAR

19 October, 2009 in Amman

***Directorship, Development and Diversity: Challenges for Women in Governance*** was the theme of this Seminar held by AIWF in collaboration with the Hawkamah Institute of Corporate Governance, DIFC and the Mudara Institute of Directors (IOD) and in cooperation with and jointly hosted in partnership with the Business and Professional Women's Federation-Amman, Jordan and the International Women's Forum, Jordan Chapter, with the valuable support of AIWF distinguished Global Partners, DLA Piper and the World Bank.

In her opening address, **Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani**, Chairman Arab International Women's Forum, said, "AIWF is firmly committed to putting corporate governance squarely onto the Arab business agenda. We believe that the development of good governance skills, and the indeed the enhanced participation of Arab women with regard to Board Directorship, are vital to the region's future economic sustainability."

A very distinguished group of speakers addressed the theme: **Mr Ziad Badr**, World Bank Head of Mission in Amman, Jordan, made a statement on behalf of the World Bank who was one of the Seminar Global Partners for this event. **Ms Noora Khalifa Al Abbar**, Executive Director of Mudara (IOD), **Mrs Kalyani Santoshkumar**, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Middle East and North Africa, **Mr Karl Tabbakh**, Abu Dhabi Corporate Partner of DLA Piper – who were also a Seminar Global Partner - and **Dr Omar M H Aljazy**, Managing Partner/Aljazy & Co. Advocates and Legal Consultants, from various aspects: from raising awareness of corporate governance, to adapting corporate governance to corporate reality in the new Arab markets, with a special focus on the role of women in the corporate workplace highlighting the benefits they are able to bring.

This very illuminating session was followed by a panel of high profile Jordanian women leaders who have achieved success in business, the professions and corporate roles who exchanged ideas and shared information on the theme of *Challenges for Women in Corporate Governance in Jordan*.

In this part of the Seminar panel speakers **Ms Reem Modar Badran**, Chairman of Al Hurra for Management and Business Development Co and board member of the Kuwaiti Jordanian Holding Company, **Ms Simona Sabella Bishouty**, CEO/General Manager of Arab Banking Corporation, **Mrs Meisa Batayneh Maani**, Founder and Principal Architect at Maisam Architects and Engineers and **Mrs Majd Shweikeh**, CEO – Orange Mobile/VP JTG, made short initial presentations on the subject of *Challenges for Women in Corporate Governance in Jordan* followed by an interactive session with the audience able to pose questions and make comments, bringing to a conclusion a very informative and stimulating day. The Moderator for this session was **Ms Suzanne Afanah**, Director of Communications and CSR ZAIN.



Throughout the event, the high quality of the guest speakers created an excellent interaction with the 140 delegates, thereby fulfilling all the criteria of a highly successful Seminar from which great benefit was derived by all.

The Seminar was a resounding success with delegates attending from Jordan, Palestine and other Arab countries who were able to benefit from the valuable knowledge and experience of such high level guest speakers covering all aspects of corporate governance and focusing particularly on the role of women.

AIWF believes that higher standards of corporate governance (in terms of accountability, transparency, integrity and risk), are an essential part of global efforts towards future economic sustainability, not just for the Arab region but the business world as a whole.

*Directorship, Development and Diversity: Challenges for Women in Governance* successfully fostered an environment in which successful women business leaders from Jordan and other Arab countries were offered opportunities to enhance their ability to overcome the challenges for women in governance in the Arab region.