



Issue - 16 31st July 2013

Women and Leadership

Candidate preparation school to increase Arab Women's Political Participation

To increase women's political participation, AWLI (Arab Women Leadership Institute) – with support from Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada – will launch the Candidate Preparation School for female candidates in Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia.

“As the Middle East moves to a new era of political development, women have a great responsibility to shape the debate on how their societies will be run,”. Through the candidate school, AWLI will train hundreds of women from Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia for local and national level elections in a series of intensive campaign schools. Curriculum will cover developing campaign strategies, campaign organization, message development, voter contact, survey, research, public speaking, media outreach, social media and coalition building. Through AWLI, women leaders develop the confidence, the self-esteem and knowledge needed to lead their communities and projects forward to become part of a dynamic regional network that supports their leadership potential,”. AWLI, an initiative of the International Republican Institute, supports the efforts of Arab women to increase their participation in public life and the political process throughout the Middle East and North Africa.—(AWLI)

Women leadership and partners meeting in Africa

The critical issues surrounding women's leadership and gender equality are taking center stage this week at a partners meeting hosted by USAID and Higher education for development (HED). Representatives from five U.S. universities selected to participate in the recently announced Women's Leadership Program and their counterparts from

institutions in Armenia, Paraguay, Rwanda and South Sudan are in the capital city of Kigali (Rwanda) for four days of strategy sessions, collaboration, and dialogue. The meeting's theme is, "A Shared Vision for Promoting Women's Leadership Through Higher Education." The Women's Leadership Program is supporting access of women to higher education and advanced degrees, strengthening institutional capacity in research and education on women's leadership, and promoting women's leadership through higher education extension/outreach efforts in underserved communities in the targeted countries. "The Women's Leadership Program with a budget of \$8.7million is one example of how, with funding from USAID, links colleges and universities in the United States with institutions overseas to address some of the world's most pressing development challenges,". —(USAID)

Women working flexibly are more productive: a study

A new report backs what many women working flexibly and part time already knows: that they waste less time at work than their full time colleagues – just 11.1% compared to the 14.5% of work hours wasted by the general population. Based on a range of different studies including figures obtained from the November 2012 EY Dynamics Productivity Pulse and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the report identifies what low female workforce participation is costing the economy and what can be done to help. Too few organizations recognize this, according to the report's authors. "Over the last decade, while there have been some gains in female workforce participation rates, a lot more needs to be done to ensure the waste doesn't continue,""When you consider that female workforce participation has only increased by 4% over the past decade to 65%, while male participation is currently at 79%, and you look at that in the context of the return of investment in educating women and the potential shortfall of retirement savings for women, it's quite an alarming picture."—(Womenagenda)

Mongolia promotes women's leadership

As Mongolia enters the final year of its \$285 million MCC Project (Millennium Challenge Corporation, An U.S. foreign aid agency helping the fight against global poverty) Mongolia is eager to emphasize and reinforce its commitment to gender equality. In March, MCA-Mongolia launched the Women's Leadership in the Economy campaign to inspire and motivate women to achieve and fulfill their leadership potential. Mongolian women are underrepresented in business and in government leadership despite their strong participation in the labor force. They are also less likely to choose careers such as construction or mining, where job growth prospects are better and pay is higher in Mongolia. Both MCC and MCA-Mongolia (Millenium Challenge Account) believes gender inequality can be a significant constraint to economic growth and poverty reduction, and together both are committed to ensuring that this project consider gender issues throughout the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, as the project enters its final months. —(MCC)

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Correction

In iLead issue 15 dated 11 July about Family Planning Conference New Zealand. The date given was incorrect the correct date 31 October – 2 November 2013. More detail from www.familyplanning.org.nz

Message for Leaders

"A Woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman. But the search to find that voice can be remarkably difficult." Melinda Gates,



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Several interested individuals and small scale enterprises have launched "Foundation for Leadership Initiatives" (Registered) to support developmental leadership. The iLead is an effort to provide information on who leads.

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