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Leadership – Women

Leadership

Middle East & Asian Leaders Meet in Dubai

Dubai: Middle Eastern and Asian business leaders and government officials gathered in Dubai on 13th December for the third Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF) Award. The eminent event, recognizes contributions by politicians and key stakeholders in the Middle Eastern and Asian business community. The event has previously been held in India and Abu Dhabi. Keynote speech delivered by Kittirat Na-Ranong, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. – (Gulf News)

Staff Turnover Most Serious Weakness in AusAID Reform — Survey

Australia's aid program is generally good — but it needs to improve on aid effectiveness, and high staff turnover is the most serious weakness in the current reform process, according to a new survey. The report published by the Canberra-based Development Policy Center is based on interviews with 365 aid professionals and implementers, including government and NGO officials, academics and consultants for a comprehensive look at the program from the opinions of those who know it best. It offers an insight into how the country's aid community feels about the direction of AusAID's ambitious reforms at a time when stakeholders are still waiting for specific details about how the new government plans to downsize the aid portfolio, apart from the AU\$4.5 billion cut in the foreign aid budget and the already implemented re-integration of the formerly semiautonomous aid agency into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade led by Julie Bishop. The most serious weakness is in human resources, especially staff continuity in managers, most of

which have been in their positions for less than twelve months — “Rapid staff turnover undermines the consistency of effort and accumulation of expertise required to deliver effective aid,” DevPolicy Director Prof. Stephen Howes said in the executive summary of the survey. And more staffing woes are expected in the future, when DFAT releases how many of the 12,000 job cuts in the civil service will come from AusAID. – (DEVEX)

Global Parliamentary Network on Diabetes Epidemic

Diabetes Australia's new President and member of Parliament Judi Moylan has been appointed the coordinator of a newly forged global network of parliamentarians to fight the growing diabetes epidemic. Representatives of more than 50 parliaments have joined forces to form the Parliamentary Champions for Diabetes ahead of the World Diabetes Congress this week. The new international collective spent the days leading up to the congress breathing some political will power into the fight against the growing epidemic to create the Melbourne Declaration on Diabetes. Data that predicts diabetes prevalence will skyrocket to 600 million people worldwide by 2035 and a further 450 million. – (Endocrinology)

Asia faces food shortage without water reform: UN

UN report published recently. An extra 1.5 billion people will live in Asia by 2050, putting even more pressure on already scarce food supplies, said the study, issued by the UNs Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). There is little scope to expand arable land in most parts of Asia, which means that growing the extra food required can only be achieved with better management of land and water supplies, it found. The report warns many developing nations in the region are facing by 2050 the prospect of importing more than a quarter of the rice, wheat and maize needed to feed their populations. Asia food and feed demand is expected to double by 2050. The best bet for Asia lies in revitalizing its vast irrigation systems, which account for 70 percent of the worlds total irrigated land.—(FAO)

Women Leadership

Saudi Women Soar Despite Job Curbs

RIYADH — Women empowerment is not only measured by their participation in the economic, political and educational spheres such as employment, access to the labor market, and the number of female legislators, but also their contribution in the cultural field. Despite a recent World Bank report that ranks Saudi Arabia at the top of the list of countries with laws that limit women's economic potential, several Saudi women have made it to the world's most influential people list. The latest addition is

Raha Moharrak — the first Saudi woman and the youngest Arab to successfully climb Mount Everest, breaking the taboos women face in the Kingdom, at the “Talent and Diversity Leadership Forum” she said, “I did not set out to be a poster child for anything. I saw a mountain. I wanted to climb it. The Forum discussed the importance of women leadership development in both public and private sectors in Saudi Arabia. The forum’s hosted over 200 business leaders from Saudi Arabia.

USAID Announces Seven Global New Awards to Respond to Gender-Based Violence

Washington D.C. – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced seven new awards worth nearly eight million dollars to address gender-based violence. The awards will enable USAID missions to address gender-based violence by applying country-specific strategies across a range of sectors. These efforts reflect USAID’s commitment to implement the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally and the Ending Child Marriage and Meeting the Needs of Married Children: USAID’s Vision for Action. In India, USAID will expand the use of mobile technology to identify and address intimate partner violence among female patients receiving family planning and prenatal care. In Ethiopia, funding will increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate child marriage and female genital mutilation. Similar efforts will be in Zimbabwe, Guinea, South Africa, Kenya and Georgia. – (USAID)

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