

# Arab Women in Computing

## Welcome Message

### A Word from ArabWIC Founder and Chair: Prof. Sana' Odeh



Welcome to the third edition of the Arab Women In Computing (ArabWIC) Newsletter! I would like to thank my fellow ArabWIC newsletter team members (Alaa' Shaheen, Fatima Djoudjou and Dr. Kaoutar El Maghraoui), for producing this issue. The ArabWIC's newsletter is intended to provide updates about projects, news, current events, technology trends, and also feature several talented ArabWIC members from the various computing/technology sectors represented in ArabWIC: academia, industry and entrepreneurship.

We encourage all of our members and friends to contribute to future issues and provide us with feedback to improve our newsletter.

As a founder and Chair of ArabWIC, I'm delighted to highlight ArabWIC's accomplishments and projects. ArabWIC was founded during 2012 New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) Conference on Women in Computing in the Arab World. Conference participants unanimously agreed to create an international organization for Arab women in computing. You can read more about this conference in the ACM-W Newsletter, Summer 2012 issue on page 33 and 34 and [in this blog entry](#) on open technologies in the region. The goal of ArabWIC is to support, inspire, retain, encourage collaboration among, increase visibility of and help elevate the status of ArabWIC, and allow them to achieve their career goals. ArabWIC also thrives to create linkage with international women-in-CS organizations. ArabWIC is proud to be officially affiliated with the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology Systers Communities, and the Academic Computing Machinery Women in Computing (ACM-W).

Despite the recent establishment of ArabWIC, we already have many accomplishments. We have managed to build a community of more than 1000 Arab technical women (academics, professionals, entrepreneurs, and industry) from more than 15 Arab countries and the world. We also held our third successful conference on [Arab Women in Computing at NYUAD in May 2015](#) where we reported on our preliminary research findings on Women in Computing in the Arab World that would be published by end of 2016. The goal of this study is to explore the representation of women in technology in all sectors (academia, entrepreneurship, and industry), the opportunities, and the diverse challenges facing women in computing in the Arab

world. We will be holding our **fourth Arab Women in Computing Conference in Morocco at the end of May, 2016.**

The Arab Women in Computing study will focus on women in academia (students and faculty), women in industry working in the IT field and women entrepreneurs (leaders of tech startups) with the goals of contributing to the national and the international debates on increasing women's enrollment in computer science, and more importantly, identifying important issues women face in the field of computing in the Arab world. The study is coordinated by me, and it will feature highly accomplished social scientists: Hannah Brückner, Associate Dean of Social Sciences, NYUAD, Marc Michael, NYUAD Assistant Professor of Social Research, UAE, and Jennifer Olmsted, Chair at Drew University, USA.

"Women in Computing" is an important and timely topic. In the United States female enrollment in Computer Science and Engineering has fallen from 37% in the early 80's to a dismal rate nearing 20% today. But in the Arab world, it seems that females comprise the majority of undergraduate students studying Computer Science in Arab countries including Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. Also, the percentage of female tech founders seems to be higher in the Arab world than the US and Europe. We have begun to explore important trends for women in computing focusing on Representation, Opportunities and Challenges for Women in Computing in the Arab World. We are also interested in learning from the experiences of Women in other regions and also sharing our successes and experiences with the rest of the world.

One of our major accomplishments this year is to setup and coordinate the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) Scholarship for Arab Women in Computing to attend the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference (GHC'15), October 14-16, 2015, in Houston, Texas, USA. This is an initiative undertaken by QCRI, ArabWIC and the Anita Borg Institute to promote computing among Arab women. The scholarship covers travel expenses including: travel to and from the conference, meals, hotel, and conference registration fees. We hope that the QCRI will support this scholarship annually. We are extremely grateful and thankful to QCRI for their generous funding and support for Arab Women in Computing (special thanks to Dr Eman Ali Fituri, and Ahmed K. Elmagarmid from QCRI). Also, ArabWIC would like to thank Anita Borg Institute for their tremendous support. Special thanks to Jody Mahoney, Senior Vice President Corporate Partners/Business Development, Anita Borg, Robin Patin, and Rosario Robinson, Program Manager, Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology.

We are also very thankful for Anita Borg for supporting our activities at Grace Hopper Conference for Women in Computing that will be held on October 14-16, 2015, in Houston, Texas, USA. We have several important activities during the GHC conference such as lunches, a reception, information booths, mentoring sessions and lunch table discussion.

The GHC is the largest international conference for women in computing sponsored by major universities and Tech companies such as Google, Microsoft, IBM, and Facebook. Attending GHC is a great ArabWIC achievement as our members are now linked to internationally renowned women in computing institutions and conferences. Our members can have the benefit of leveraging existing resources to support international women in computing such as mentoring, scholarships, and research collaboration. I would like to thank Rosario Robinson, Anita Borg Systers Program Manager, for all of her wonderful support of all of the Systers ABI communities.

ArabWIC is also delighted to receive two complimentary GHC passes to our members (Thanks to Anita Borg Communities) to attend the conference.

Finally, I would also like to thank all of the amazing members of the ArabWIC's chapter's ambassadors (especially Leaders of the Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, and UAE for their wonderful launch of ArabWIC in their countries. I would also like to thank the Program, the Social Media, the Technical Workshop, Website, and the Mentoring committee for their impressive work to build the foundation for ArabWIC and reach out to all of the Arab Women in Computing/Technology all over the world. Please see the website for the full list of steering committee members for ArabWIC.

We hope that you will join our projects and also help us lead new initiatives to support ArabWIC's mission to empower Arab women in technology. For more information, visit [arabwic.org](http://arabwic.org)

## ArabWIC Annual Conference

### NYUAD Women in Computing in the Arab World Conference 2015

On May 18 and 19, 2015, over seventy computing experts got together at [New York University in Abu Dhabi](#), UAE (United Arab Emirates) campus to explore technology and social trends, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, and to form professional computing chapters across North Africa and the Middle East.



The event, [NYUAD Women in Computing in the Arab World Conference 2015](#), funded by [NYUAD](#), was the third in a series. The conference takes place in partnership with other organizations such as [Anita Borg Institute Systers Communities](#) and [ArabWIC](#), chaired by [Professor Sana Odeh](#) of [NYU](#) and co-chaired by [Dr Kaoutar El Maghraoui](#) of [IBM](#). The fourth conference is in the planning stages for Morocco in Summer 2015, and the conference committee is eagerly seeking corporate sponsors.



[Read More about the NYUAD ArabWIC 2015 Conference](#)

## ArabWIC at the Grace Hopper Celebration 2015

### A Message from ArabWIC Co-Chair: Dr. Kaoutar El Maghraoui



ArabWIC is very delighted and eager to participate again in the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, the world's largest women in computing conference. In 2014, about 8000 participants from 65 countries attended GHC, a 64% increase from the 2013 conference. This year GHC is expecting another 50% increase from 2014. Nearly 12,000 people are expected to participate this year, a record number for computing conferences. ArabWIC has become an integral entity of Grace Hopper's Systers community. Last year, we had our first strong presence with a dedicated booth, reception, and several events. This year ArabWIC is expected to shine even stronger. Key members of our community are speaking at various panels, being honored with significant awards, and are involved in the conference leadership committee. I will highlight in what follows some notable

involvement of ArabWIC members at GHC. For more details about ArabWIC activities at GHC, check out our program in this newsletter.

Mai Abulkas Temraz is the Mentorship and Women's Inclusivity program coordinator at Gaza Sky Geeks, Gaza's first startup accelerator. She is also a member of ArabWIC's mentoring program. Mai founded the Amateur Club in 2013, a training center and maker space that targets young people and thrives to engage them to learn about STEM. Mai's excellent pioneering work in Gaza has earned her the prestigious Change Agent ABI award that will be presented to her during the awards ceremony at GHC'15. The Change Agent ABIE Awards recognize two outstanding international women (non-US residents with an emphasis on developing countries) who have created opportunities for girls and women in technology.

Sherin Abdelhamid, a native Egyptian, is an active member of the ArabWIC conference organization committee and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of Computing, Queen's University. Her talk "Roadside Caching Assistance for Vehicle-Based Information Services" and poster about smart vehicles were accepted for presentation at GHC'15. It is important to mention that GHC has a very rigorous and competitive acceptance rate given the huge number of submissions the conference receives. This can only testify to the excellent work that Sherin submitted to the conference.

Prof. Sana Odeh, founder and chair of AraBWIC and NYU CS professor will be giving the opening remarks and speaking on the "*Global Women Technical Leaders Program: After the Grace Hopper Celebration: Building and Sustaining Community*" panel. Sana will have 5 minutes to give the opening remarks and will frame it around the importance of community and support in building the careers of technical women.

Alaa Fatayer is an Intelligent Networks specialist at Jawwal, the leading Palestinian telecommunication company. Alaa will be speaking at the "*Global Women Technical Leaders Program: After the Grace Hopper Celebration: Building and Sustaining Community*" panel, where she will share her experience and views on the essentials of building and fostering community support for women in technology.

Bushra A. Alahmadi is a lecturer at the department of Computer Science and Information at King Saud University and the co-founder of the first female technology society in Saudi Arabia called 'Digital Minds Club'. Bushra is speaking at a panel called: "Women in Computing Societies at University", where she will share her experiences, challenges and success stories of building "women in computing" societies at her local university.

Last but not least, I have had the great honor this year to serve as the Program co-chair of GHC 2015. My role has been to help put together with other GHC leaders a balanced and effective

program that caters to the different and diverse needs of every participant. The GHC program is designed with diverse attendees in mind and thrives to deliver content that engages, inspires, educates, and guides students, early professionals, mid-career professionals as well as seniors in Academia and Industry. It has been an amazing experience to see what goes behind the scenes in organizing a conference at this magnitude.

GHC will provide ArabWIC members with a great opportunity to enrich themselves, learn about recent trends in computing, and network with other women and men in their fields. GHC is the place to inspire and get inspired!

## **Mai Abualkas Temraz, ArabWiC Member win 2015 Winner of the Change Agent ABIE Award**



We are proud of our ArabWIC Gaza, Palestine Ambassador, Mai Abualkas Temraz, who won the prestigious Anita Borg's [Change Agent ABIE Award](#). Mai is one of our ArabWIC Mentorship leaders and she is also a Program Coordinator at Gaza Sky Geeks (GSG), Gaza's first startup accelerator and co-working hub. Mai's interest in entrepreneurship began through her interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. She is the first Palestinian female licensed amateur radio operator. In 2013,

she founded the Amateur Club, a training center and maker space that engages young minds in learning STEM. In 2014, she became a TechWomen Emerging Leader, and in 2015, she was awarded the best entry level STEM Executive at the Women in STEM conference in Dubai. Mai is a Global Tech Leader representing Palestine, and a member of the Arab Women in Computing (ArabWIC) Mentorship Committee. She holds a BS in Communications Engineering from the Islamic University, the top university in Gaza. [Read More about Mai on Anitaborg.org website](#). We congratulate Mai and we are very proud of her accomplishment.

## **Dr. Kaoutar El Maghraoui, GHC Program Co-Chair**

Dr. Kaoutar El Maghraoui, is the ArabWIC Co-Chair and is also currently serving a very important role of co-chairing the 2015 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing.

Dr. Kaoutar El Maghraoui is a research scientist at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center in New York, devotes herself to improving the status of women in technology in the USA and the Middle East. Profiled recently on the Anita Borg Institute website, the Moroccan native expressed her passion for supporting the participation of women in computing fields and her point of view regarding the position of women and technology in the world. She sees a vast potential for women in technology in the Arab world.

[Read More from AnitaBorg.org](#) and [Read More from the Morocco World News](#)

## ArabWIC Program at GHC 2015

### **1. Arab Women in Computing Reception (ArabWIC) at GHC 2015: Oct 14, 2015 - 6:30 PM - 9:30PM:**

Join us for an exciting Arab Women In Computing (ArabWIC) dinner reception at the 2015 [Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing](#) in Houston, Texas. The reception is open to the first 60 participants on a first come first serve basis. We hope to see you there (Open to everyone!)

RSVP for Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/299879663537523/>

### **2. ArabWIC Members are featured in Important Panel at GHC : "Global Women Technical Leaders Program: Building and Sustaining Community", Wednesday October 14th 12-1pm. Panel Location : 320 A Level Three GRBCC (Convention Center)**

- **ArabWIC Panel Speakers:**
  - Prof. Sana Odeh, founder and chair of AraBWIC and NYU CS professor will be giving the opening remarks and speaking on this panel. Sana will speak on the importance of community and support for women in Technology focusing on the ArabWIC example.
  - Alaa Fatayer is an Intelligent Networks specialist at Jawwal, the leading Palestinian telecommunication company. Alaa will be speaking on this panel sharing her experience and views on the essentials of building and fostering community support for women in technology.

### **3. ArabWIC Table Lunch Discussions: Three Lunch Table Topic discussions :**

**Three Lunch Tables sessions topics during lunch (Located in Lunch area):**

**Thursday Oct 15, 12:45 – 2:00pm Topic 1 (info about arabwic)**

**Thursday Oct 15th, 2:00pm – 3:15pm Topic 2 (Speed Mentoring session)**

**Friday, Oct 16th: 1:00pm - 2:15pm (Speed Mentoring session)**

**4. ArabWIC Table Booth:** Stop or volunteer to staff our ArabWIC Table Booth in the exhibition area. This is really important as you get to meet people from all over the world and answer questions about AraBWIC. You can make the booth our meeting area and come by and mingle here with our wonderful members. Last year Megan Smith stopped by our booth and took pictures with our members.

## **ArabWIC Scholarship to attend GHC 2015 with sponsorship of Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI)**

On behalf of QCRI, ArabWiC, and the Anita Borg Institute Scholarship Review Committee, we are delighted to announce the recipients of the QCRI ArabWIC GHC 2015 Scholarship!

We have received close to 100 excellent applications that were all worthy of receiving the scholarship. The selection process was very tough, but we would like to assure everyone that their applications were solid but, unfortunately, we have limited resources and we only afford to select 6 women. There will be definitely other chances and different opportunities for everyone to pursue in the near future. We are only beginning. Good luck to everyone and we hope that we all join our effort together through ArabWIC to provide more resources and opportunities for all of the amazing women from the Arab World to help them achieve their goals.

Finally, we are delighted to announce the list of women who were selected to receive the QCRI Scholarship for Arab Women in Computing to attend the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference (GHC'15), October 4-16, 2017, in Houston, Texas, USA.

- 1) Alaa Shaheen, Palestine (Tech Woman 2015), software engineer, Entrepreneur, Pioneer Tech, and ArabWiC ambassador Palestine
- 2) Farah Shammout, Jordan, Undergraduate software engineering Student at NYUAD, and ArabWiC UAE

3)Fatma Zohra DjouDjou, Algeria, software engineer, Ericsson, and ArabWiC ambassador, Algeria

4) Houda Bouamor , Tunisia, Special Faculty-Senior Researcher, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, and ArabWiC ambassador Qatar and Tunisia

5) Houda Chakiri, Morocco, Software Engineer/Entrepreneur/CEO/PhD Student, ENHANCED TECHNOLOGIES

6) Manar Abu Taleb, UAE, Associate Professor, University of Sharjah, and ArabWiC ambassador, UAE

We wish you all the greatest success with this endeavor, and look forward to seeing you at the GHC 2015 in Houston!

We are extremely thankful for the QCRI and especially Eman Fituri for the generous funding, and also for Anita Borg Institute for their support and partnership.

Sana' Odeh, ArabWiC Chair and Founder, Clinical Professor of Computer Science, New York University, New York

Kaoutar El Maghraoui, ArabWiC Co-Chair, Research Scientist, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center

## Bio's of scholarship recipients

### Alaa Shaheen



Alaa Shaheen is a technology entrepreneur and a software engineer. She finished BSc degree in Computer Engineering from An-Najah National University - Palestine, and Certificate in Graduate Studies Program from Singularity University, CA, USA. She works as a Software Engineer with Progineer Technologies on Maestria Software for PDF Solutions. She is co-founder and organizer at

Nablus Tech Meetups which is a Palestinian community initiative for technology and entrepreneurship. Moreover, she is proud to be a chapter ambassador and a mentoring committee member at the Arab Women in Computing organization. Alaa has been awarded to be an emerging leader for TechWomen program 2015. Alaa has experience working in different startup projects such as e-learning, traveling, and SME's management. She hopes from her participation in the GHC to network with awesome women from all over the world who works in technology and experience from technical sessions to gain new skills and knowledge in new topics such as IoT and HCI.

### Farah Shamout



Farah Shamout is an undergraduate Computer Engineering student at NYU Abu Dhabi, Palestine/Jordan. She is particularly interested in the interaction of health and wellbeing and technology, women entrepreneurship and innovation. Her work as a Google Student Ambassador and as a researcher at Imperial College London has allowed her to discover her passion about education and scientific discovery. Shamout also just recently got elected as the President of NYUAD's Student Government 2015-2016. In addition, Shamout is invested in demolishing the barriers that keep women in the Arab world from joining the computing fields through her research and participation

with Arab Women in Computing Organization. Attending the GHC will be a great learning experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity to share the global vision of what it truly means to be a woman in computing.

### **Fatma Zohra Djoudjou**



Fatma Zohra Djoudjou is a software development engineer at Ericsson, leader of Women who code in Algeria and she is a part of ArabWIC program committee, she is enthusiastic about helping others create programs to improve their communities. Djoudjou have been selected for two prestigious exchange programs: Techwomen and She Entrepreneurs, during TechWomen program she engaged in project-based mentorships at Twitter, participated in professional development workshops and networking events in Silicon Valley. She worked with Twitter Android development

team on Twitter's SDK called Fabric. Recently she participated in the annual ArabWIC conference, her role involved creating programs and events that help women be more visible in IT industry, recently she has participated also as a mentor in the 2015 Annual NYUAD International Hackathon for Social Good in the Arab World.

### **Houda Bouamor**



Houda Bouamor is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, from Tunisia. Houda is also a senior researcher in the Computer Science Natural Language Processing lab and working mainly on Arabic NLP. Houda received her Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Paris-Sud University, France, where she worked on paraphrasing in the framework of Computational Linguistics.

Her M.Sc. is in Computer Science from the Paris-Est Marne-La-Vallée University and her bachelor degree in Computer Science is from the University of Manouba, Tunisia. Houda has a broad interest in artificial intelligence with a focus on different NLP issues. She worked on different projects including resolving different NLP issues. Her main research interest revolves around Statistical Machine Translation. Houda is a member of the ArabWIC conference and research committees, Qatar.

### **Mrs Houda Chakiri**



Mrs Houda Chakiri attending GHC 2015 is CEO and founder of Enhanced Technologies, a Moroccan IT company specializing in developing e-Government solutions [www.enhanced-tech.ma](http://www.enhanced-tech.ma). Houda is also mother of 5 and 2 years old boys; she amazingly succeeds to manage between work, motherhood and studies as she is enrolled in a PHD program at University of Fes. Selected among top ten finalists of Sawaed contest

<http://www.enhanced-tech.ma/index.php?lang=english>, named among 100 best social entrepreneurs in GK3, Malaysia 2007, selected in Techwomen program 2012. Got the IEEE CIST 2014 Young ICT Entrepreneur Award (<http://www.ieee.ma/cist14/cist-14-awards/85-ieee-cist-2014-young-entrepreneur-award>), got WSTEM best middle level executive award 2015 by Meera Kaul Foundation.

### **Manar Abu Talib**



Dr. Manar Abu Talib is teaching at the University of Sharjah in the UAE. Dr. Abu Talib's research interest includes software engineering with substantial experience and knowledge in conducting research in software measurement, software quality, software testing, ISO 27001 for Information Security and Open Source Software. Manar is also working on ISO standards for measuring the functional size of software, and has been involved in developing the Arabic version of ISO 19761 (COSMIC-FFP measurement method). She published more than 40 refereed conferences, journals, manuals and technical reports, involved in more than 70 professional

activities and sponsored research activities and supervised 30 capstone projects. She received the Best Teacher Award two times, the Exemplary Faculty Award in 2008 and 2010, Google CS4HS Award in 2014 and QCRI ArabWIC and Anita Borg Institute Faculty scholarships in 2015. She was the Counselor of IEEE Student Branch at Zayed University, 2012-2013. She is CEO of Emirates Digital Association for Women (EDAW111), Sharjah Google Developer Group Manager, an executive member in Arab Women in Computing Association (ArabWIC), an executive member in UAE IEEE Section, the UAE representative for the COSMIC International Advisory Council and International Collaborator to Software Engineering Research Laboratory in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Abu Talib thinks GHC is a great opportunity to all women in computing. For her, she believes by attending GHC this year, she will create, lead and organize IT programs to support Arab Women in the UAE. She already organizes events such as monthly meetings, Tech talks, mentoring sessions, IT/CS workshops, encourages female students to participate in Hackathons, Startup events, help with research, and so on. Dr. Abu Talib is working with other 20 EDAW founders from the UAE as well as 30 EDAW ambassadors. This conference will certainly add values to the UAE in specific and to the Arab World in general.

## **ArabWIC Chapters Activities 2015:**

### **Palestine Chapter:**

The Arab Women in Computing Organization's second inaugural event - Palestine Chapter was held in the city of Ramallah on Sunday, August 9, 2015, corresponding to the presence of the organization founder Professor Sana Odeh. And with the presence of a group of Palestinian women, stakeholders in several areas.



The event started with a word from the Professor Sana Odeh defining the Arab Women in Computing Organization in the field of technology and its goals. Then she presented statistics which suggest that the percentages of Arab women who were studying computer science and disciplines of technology are much higher than the women who study the same fields in the US. Dr. Sana' talked about role models of Arab scientists and researchers women. Then the group of ArabWIC ambassadors in Palestine introduces themselves, their work and their voluntary activities, including: Eng. Ayah Soufan, Eng. Alaa Shaheen and Amal Awadallah, Riham Di'bas, Razan Qraini, and Samah Kareem.



Palestine Chapter also held an impressive events in Gaza and Nablus to introduce ArabWIC to women in technology in their cities and both events were successful.

The ArabWIC first inaugural event was in Nablus city in April 2015. Alaa Shaheen, ArabWIC ambassador spoke during the ceremony about the organization and its objectives, composition and next steps. In that event, the ArabWIC ambassador Haneen Abu Farha and Razan Qraini spoke about the goals and future activities of ArabWIC in Palestine. Adding to that, the invited Palestinian women in the field of technology talked about their success stories inspired in different areas of their work, among them Riham Di'bas ArabWIC ambassador who works in the field of supporting entrepreneurs, Abeer Abu Ghaith CEO of StayLinked Company and who attended the ArabWiC conference in 2013, and Hadeel Al-Safadi from Gaza, an ambassador of ArabWiC as well a founder of Newton, a leading animation company in Gaza.



[Read More about ArabWIC second Inaugural event in Ramallah, Palestine](#) and [about the Inaugural event in Nablus, Palestine](#)

#### **Lebanon Chapter:**

The Lebanese Chapter of Arab Women in Computing (ArabWIC) held its inaugural event on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 at the American University of Beirut (AUB). This event was sponsored by the computer science department of AUB, the Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB) and ArabNet and was attended by around forty women including students, IT professionals, professors and entrepreneurs. The male gender was present in the event too.



The event started by Nisreen Deeb, Lebanon Ambassador for ArabWIC, providing an overview about ArabWIC global organization including ArabWIC mission in bringing more girls into technology and empowering women in technology so they can reach their career goals and widen their society impact.

Nisreen's introduction was followed by a panel session moderated by Ghida Ibrahim, ArabWIC Ambassador for Lebanon and member of ArabWIC program committee, and featuring Prof. Fatima Abu Salem (Professor of Computer Science at AUB), Rana El Chemaitelly (Founder of The Little Engineer), Reina Nader (Head of PMO at Alfa) and Racha Ghamlouch (Speakers and Entrepreneurship Manager at ArabNet) as speakers.



[Read More about ArabWIC Lebanon Inaugural Event](#)

#### **UAE Chapter, EDAW111:**

#### **Emirates Digital Association for Women (EDAW111) at a Glance**

Emirates Digital Association for Women (EDAW111) is a non-profit association to guide, support, and empower women across the UAE in the fields of computer science and information technology. EDAW111 was officially registered by the Ministry of Social Affairs in March 2014. Our headquarter is in Abu Dhabi city and our operations are spread across the seven emirates. One of the valuable programs that EDAW111 has is the ambassador program. It is a valuable program to ensure the strong communication between the association and the academia, the industry and the entrepreneurs in the computing field. In the first year, the association concentrated on establishing a solid ambassador program with the universities in the UAE. So far we have more than 25 ambassadors from several universities in the UAE. The

ambassador will be the focal point of contact to spread the word about the association programs, activities, seminars, workshops and scholarships.



*EDAW111 First Anniversary at Etihad Towers*

## **ArabWIC Qatar Chapter**

In alignment with Arab Women in Computing group, Qatar Chapter goals are to inspire, support and celebrate Women in Technology in Qatar (in all Technology sectors: Students, Faculty, IT Professionals working in IT fields, and IT Entrepreneurs). We held our first event: Social Networking in June 9th, 2015 where we shared our goal and heard from successful Arab women in technology in Qatar about their inspiring stories and also share the opportunities, the challenges and how to overcome them in this field. This was a special event since it's the first event launching of ArabWIC in Qatar and providing a great opportunity for Women at Qatar in all technology sectors to network, support and inspire each other.



## **ArabWIC Oman**



The Oman chapter of Arab Women in Computing (ArabWIC) recently hosted its first event on 16th of September 2015. Held at 'The Lounge,' ArabWIC invited Arab women interested in information technologies and computing to have an open discussion with guest speaker Maryam Al Alawi, owner of Wassm Media. Al Alawi shared her experiences in how she began working in IT and launched her career, as well as ideas for the future of women's employment in the IT sector in the Sultanate and the region.

Ambassador of the Oman chapter, Marwa Al Habsi, said, 'It is so exciting to start the ArabWIC group in Oman and begin much needed conversations about women in the IT sector. The first event was a great success and Maryam inspired us to be entrepreneurs in the IT sector.'

Founded in 2012, the goal of ArabWIC is to support, inspire, retain, encourage collaboration among, increase visibility of and help elevate the status of Arab women in computing and allow them to achieve their career goals. There are chapters of the organization across the Middle East North Africa region, with Oman's chapter of ArabWIC launched in May of this year by Marwa Al Habsi and Asya Al Jabri.

ArabWIC Oman plans to host more events, learning opportunities and offers many scholarships for international conferences. All Arab women interested in computing or IT, from students, to professionals and business owners, are invited to join ArabWIC by visiting [www.arabwic.org](http://www.arabwic.org) for more information.

## **ArabWIC Programs:**

### **ArabWiC Tech Talks**

On Monday, September 21, 2015, [ArabWIC](#), ran their first in a series of Tech Talks for their global membership. The topic was [Open Source Software](#). The session was set up, managed and hosted by Susan Malaika, [Ghida Ibrahim](#) and [Fatma Djoudjou](#).

Although this initial Tech Talk was partly setup to gain experience of running global webinars with multiple speakers, it was inspiring to hear from women who are active in the open source communities, or who are implementing systems with open source. There were three main speakers: [Rand Muhatasab](#), [Aya Mahfouz](#) and [Manar AbuTalib](#). There were two additional guests who also spoke about their open source experiences: [Rachel Myers](#) and [Ishita Mandhan](#).

[Read More the full article written by ArabWiC active member Susan Malaika](#)

## **ArabWIC Committees Reports:**

### **Mentoring Committee**

This has been an important year for mentoring for ArabWIC with the formation of a committee early in 2015 to focus on planning activities for our membership. Committee members are Wafia Bouguira, Sabrina Elghars, Diane Jordan, Susan Malaika, Alaa Shaheen, and Mai Abualkas Temraz.

First focus of the new committee was to create a mentorship plan for the [Arab Women in Computing at NYUAD in May 2015](#). The high point of these activities was a speed mentoring workshop in which all attendees participated in one of three categories: Research, (including students, professors and researchers), Entrepreneurs and Industry. Each category had a senior ArabWIC leader moderating the lively discussions covering questions, issues and advice. Topics ranged from long term career plans to making decisions for the near future, and included how to handle issues such as boredom, poor managers or professors, or life work balance. With the broad range of skills and expertise represented at the conference, many insights, useful advice and resources were shared. Members left the event energized with new tools and ideas for managing their careers and meaningful personal connections across the region.

Building on this success, the Mentorship committee is working on creating two speed mentoring sessions especially for ArabWIC at the 2015 Grace Hopper Celebration. These will be held on Thursday and Friday during the lunch table sessions and promise to be as exciting as the May conference event.

Looking to the future, we are working on plans to expand awareness of the benefits of mentoring among our members and to create more opportunities to connect members with similar interests. Watch our [Facebook](#) page for information as these materialize!

### **ArabWiC Website Committee**

As ArabWIC has grown bigger this year and now involves 12 Arab countries, it was necessary that our website reflects the new growth in our community. The new website features the community leaders and connects to their professional page on LinkedIn. We also added "Events" page to display year calendar of the activities happening at various Arab countries. We added a "Resources" page to show up to date resources of scholarships, jobs, internship in our website. Moreover, we allow users to enter new opportunities to the website through a simple form. And since ArabWIC getting more visibility, we added a new page for "Press" to give a different perspective of how we are viewed by the community.

The team members are professionals with great accomplishments who dedicated their time to set up a website of this quality. The main developers are Wafa Waheeda, Asma Ramadan, Ikram Kella and Hanan Alshikhabobakr. We also want to show our gratitude to all the volunteers who

helped in translation, blogging and contributed suggestions: Nour Alkhailil, Nourhan Elfaramawy, Wesam Almadani, Ashwag Alasmari, Imane Aannaque, Marwa Boubguira, Wafia Boubguira, Maha Mahmoud. This work would not have been possible without the guidance of Professor Sana Odeh, Professor Kaoutar Elmaghraoui and the social media team.

## **Social Media Committee**

The social media committee is the bridge between ArabWIC and the outside world. We help the organisation reach out to the members, connect with them and inform them about important events and opportunities. We use social media side by side with live events and projects to fulfill ArabWIC's goals, which are empowering Arab women in computing and helping them thriving in their careers. The social media committee is also taking in charge the redesign of ArabWIC website

We are on [Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#) , [Google+](#) and [Instagram](#).