



WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS SUMMIT IN JORDAN

February 26 - March 1, 2007

"People are the hope of the future and that hope will only be fully realized when the potential of all people is fully developed – men and women, boys and girls alike."

- Amb. Karen Hughes, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

"In the long run, business, trade, and commerce are not only about economic efficiency, but also about knitting our nations' ideals, ideas, and common values together, bringing prosperity and peace."

- Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, Chairman of the American Red Cross

"Educating a girl, employing a woman, empowering a mother are all keys to progress in a society and ultimately lead to prosperity."

- Luma Kawar, Co-Founder, Bridges of Understanding Foundation

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

The Women Business Leaders Summit in Jordan is a public-private sector outreach program to facilitate connections between American, Jordanian, and broader Middle Eastern business communities.

Fifty women executives and business owners whose endeavors span all business sectors in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Territories, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates will be joined in Amman by 50 highly successful women business leaders from the United States. Participants in the summit will share their experiences and exchange best practices in a variety of panel discussions, and will hear from some of the most accomplished women in the Arab business world.

The Arab businesswomen will travel to the United States in the spring to visit their American partners' companies and exchange views on management styles and business skills. They also will meet with senior government officials and members of Congress in Washington, DC, and attend special program sessions at Georgetown University.

This Summit and mentoring partnership represents the best kind of public diplomacy, utilizing some of our greatest resources – the American people – to address the challenges faced by all women in business.

The Summit is co-chaired by The Honorable Bonnie McElveen-Hunter and Luma Kawar in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Office for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, led by Ambassador Karen Hughes.

Ms. McElveen-Hunter is Chairman of the American Red Cross, and a former U.S. Ambassador to Finland. This initiative builds on the previous success of regional summits hosted by Ms. McElveen-Hunter in Finland in 2002, and Latvia in 2004.

Originally a banker, Ms. Kawar – the wife of the Jordanian Ambassador to the United States, Karim Kawar – founded the professional women's chapter of the International Women's Forum in Jordan. She is also the co-founder of the Bridges of Understanding Foundation, which promotes a better understanding and appreciation of Arab culture.

Ambassador Karen Hughes, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, has been active in leading efforts to promote a dialogue between Americans and people around the world.

Together, these women are dedicated to building bridges between businesswomen in the Arab world and the United States. The Women Business Leaders Summit in Jordan will promote these ties with the hope that economic development creates not only jobs and prosperity, but strong partners, allies and friends.

Goals of the Summit

- Encourage the role of women as full and equal partners in the economic and social development of the Middle East;
- Foster business development by presenting "best practices," honing management skills, and sharing strategies for success;
- Promote business opportunities and partnerships between the U.S. and participating countries.