



2030 M Street, NW, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20036-3306
(202) 728-5500
fax: (202) 728-5520
mail: contact@ndi.org
www.ndi.org

Women's Leadership Academy Program

The Women's Leadership Academy is designed to assist a core group of Saudi women journalists, business leaders and other professionals to develop a network that would gain skills and insight into leadership, strategic planning, advocacy, communications, and other areas that would be applicable to your current profession and to future, expanded political roles such as supporting women candidates and voter education.

The Institute's program activities would consist of three complementary components: 1) learning workshops aimed at building the knowledge and skills of the core group in understanding democratic principles and the role of citizens and civil society in the policy and decision making processes; 2) gain the skills to build an advocacy network; and 3) developing individual and team action plans for advancing advocacy goals of influencing policy and decision making through advocacy and citizen action.

Program Timeframe: February to July 2008

February 9 to 12, 2008 Strategic Thinking and Planning Sessions

At the outset of the program, NDI will organize a three-day strategy session for the core group in UAE. The workshop will provide the core group with skills and insight into goal setting that will foster their talents, develop their individual styles and encourage them develop individual and group strategies.

May 3 to 6, 2008 Leadership Development Session

Participants will attend an intensive three-day leadership development session in UAE. This workshop will introduce key themes, provide practical learning in leadership skills, allow for interactions with a range of international political leaders and experts and highlight case studies demonstrating the impact that strong leadership has on all levels of the political process.

July 5 to 8, 2008 Advocacy Skills Workshops

NDI would organize a three-day workshop in UAE in July to introduce key themes and provide participants with an action plan for ensuing months focusing on skills development for effective advocacy campaigns. The advocacy workshop will highlight the fundamentals of influencing public policy

Following each learning module, participants will draft action plans with specific, achievable objectives within a limited timeframe and organize regular meetings with each action team. Over six months, the action teams would gain the skills needed to advocate and advance women's interests and issues in their local communities collectively, strategically, and effectively. The action teams would target women at places where they normally congregate including



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universities, colleges, high schools and the chambers of commerce and industry. In addition, action teams would host tea parties at private homes and would organize roundtable discussion events with policy-makers and influential people at public venues to promote WAN and to inform and educate Saudi officials and women about citizen participation in policy and decision making processes. The emergence of common ground and common intentions among the participants of these events will build confidence and acts as a catalyst for creativity energy within the WAN leadership.

Commitment

The program will run from February to July 2008. It will consist of three 3-day workshops and activities. Participants are expected to commit to attend all three workshops and actively involve in the program activities following each learning module. Participants are being sought to be representative of all the regions of the country and are expected to commit themselves to actively participate in all aspects of the program.

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Attn: Fawzi A. Guleid

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
2025 M Street NW, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20036-3306
Fax: (202) 728-5565
fguleid@ndi.org
www.ndi.org