

Mission

IWFF's mission is to provide Iraqi women faculty and students with first-rate higher education in engineering and applied sciences to enable them to play key roles in rebuilding an economy and society shattered by war.



Introduction

The Iraqi Women's Fellowship Foundation (IWFF) is a Section 501 (C)(3) non-profit. Its goal is to enable Iraqi women committed to the rebuilding of their country through applied science and engineering disciplines to study and learn at American institutes of higher learning in the United States and in the Middle East. Exposure to US universities and colleges will strengthen their professional skills and provide an opportunity for cultural exchange and understanding.

The physical reconstruction of Iraq is key to ensuring peace and putting the war torn country back on the path of development. In order to achieve sustained growth, it is necessary to build upon assets and skills of Iraqi citizens. Iraqis have a history of high levels of education and training. However, development of human capital, particularly of women, was restricted by an oppressive regime for 15 years. Women's participation in educational and other socioeconomic pursuits was severely curtailed.

Engineers are crucial in the reconstruction of Iraq's infrastructure and economic recovery. The engineering and science faculties in Iraq have suffered from a lack of exposure to technologies and research innovations developed during the last decade or so internationally. Moreover, due to obsolete curricula there is a mismatch between graduates' qualifications and the skills required by employers. There is limited availability of qualified teachers in universities, with only 36% of faculty having doctoral degrees. It is essential to transfer knowledge and best practices by exposing faculty and students to the highest standards of international education and training. Women comprise 52% of the population but only 34% of

university students and less than 23% of the workforce, and lag behind in all aspects of social economic and political participation. IWFF empowers women to take leading roles in reconstructing, stabilizing and providing for the long term development of Iraq.

IWFF's efforts will reinforce steps taken by the Iraqi Government that support equal rights and advancement of women in the workforce. Women are by necessity (due largely to deaths of professional men in war), rising in professional positions, and becoming the principal income earners in many households. It is important to provide opportunities for women to acquire and enhance their capacities and skills, to meet the demand for trained engineers and technology specialists in the professional and economic recovery of their country.

Program Scope

- ❖ Iraqi women *faculty* in engineering and applied sciences will spend one year as visiting scholars in universities and colleges in the US to upgrade their knowledge and teaching skills, or undertake research. The proposal is to build the number of placements from 5 faculty members in the 1st year to 10 in the 5th year and to expand the number of participating universities and colleges. The participating universities in the first year are Stanford University, Smith College, University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, San Diego.
- ❖ Iraqi women *students* will enroll in undergraduate engineering and applied sciences programs at American universities in the Middle East. The proposal is for 5 students to enroll as four-year undergraduates in the 2nd year of the program, increasing over the program period to 20 students. This entails four year fellowship commitments for each fellowship award.

- ❖ The program scope provides for the possible expansion of the program to include seminars, conferences and workshops in fields such as business planning, finance, management, and leadership.

Application Criteria and Selection Process

Eligible women faculty and student candidates will be welcomed to apply from all over Iraq. AMIDEAST (America-MidEast Educational and Training Services, Inc), a non-profit organization which handles Fulbright Scholarships in the Middle East, has been contracted to manage implementation of the IWFF fellowships. Dr. Mosa al-Mosawe, President of Baghdad University, is assisting with the identification of qualified women candidates. The final selection of candidates will be managed in concert with participating universities. Each will use its own established procedures and criteria for selection and admission of students. Preparatory training in language and prerequisite courses will be offered to selected candidates as needed to ensure required levels of academic standing.

International and government agencies have documented urgent need for trained engineers and applied scientists in the following areas:

Electricity: projects in generation, transmission and distribution.

Public Works and Water: projects in water treatment, sewer projects and water resource projects.

Oil: projects in restoration, water injection pump stations, plant refurbishment and dedicated power.

Buildings, Health and Education: projects such as schools, primary healthcare centers, hospitals and public buildings.

Transportation: projects in village roads, expressways, bridges, airports, ports, railroad stations, postal facilities and other transportation projects.

Security and Justice: projects in border forts, points of entry, military facilities, police facilities, fire facilities, and prisons and courts.

Information and Communication: ICT infrastructure needs considerable improvement to allow for improved governance and economic revitalization. Provision of reliable and affordable telecommunications, through introduction of wireless connectivity, fiber and microwave integration.

Contribution of Funds

Your contribution is an investment in the higher education of Iraqi women in engineering and applied sciences and to their important role in the rebuilding and future growth of Iraq.

Contact Us

For grant contributions, please contact us for more information on the Iraqi Women's Fellowship Foundation, at:

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www.iwffoundation.org

Individual contributions can be made by checks payable to IWFF, and sent to the address above.

Partners

We welcome and will recognize your partnership.

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

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AMOUNT _____

Tax deductibility

Contributions to IWFF will qualify for the charitable contribution deduction to the maximum extent permitted by law. All contributions will be acknowledged by a letter along with a statement describing the contribution, the amount or value of contribution, and the date of contribution.

DETACH AND MAIL WITH YOUR DONATION. THANK YOU!

Investing in Iraqi Women Professionals in Engineering and Applied Sciences

There are high returns to be achieved in investing in the education of Iraqi women faculty and students in engineering and applied sciences:

- ❖ Building human resources in much-needed engineering and applied science skills among women dedicated to rebuilding and restoring their country.
- ❖ Strengthening the educational capacity of Iraq's universities with specialized study and departments in engineering and applied sciences.
- ❖ Developing long lasting institutional partnerships among US universities and counterpart Iraq universities.
- ❖ Establishing collaborative and working relationships among individuals in engineering and applied sciences, and in cultural exchange and understanding.
- ❖ Broadening public and private partnership support for Iraqi women in their pivotal role towards achieving peace, stability, physical rebuilding and long term development of their country.

The high returns of investing in Iraqi women professionals in engineering and applied sciences has been recognized by the US Department of State that has funded the first year of the IWFF program. This means that five Iraqi women faculty will attend top rate US universities as one-year visiting scholars in academic year 2009-10.

Strategic partners are being sought to support the second and future years of the program, from industry, foundations, universities, international donors, governments and individuals. Second year program costs are \$1.8 million, for seven one-year faculty visiting scholarships and five student enrollments in four-year undergraduate programs. The total cost of the five year program is \$8.8 million, of which 87% goes directly to educational costs. Private/public partnerships are being sought to continue funding and building the program.

A summary and full external grant proposal are available on-line and by mail on request.

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Partners

We welcome and will recognize your partnership.

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AMIDEAST (America-MidEast Educational and Training Services, Inc.)

US Department of State

For more information,
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