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المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

Lebanese Scout project helps empower lebanese women

?????:Brian Okello

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On September 20, 2009, Progressive Lebanese scouts held a graduation ceremony in El- Abadiah, Lebanon during which, eighty Lebanese women graduated from the "Women in Technology" training program. The graduation ceremony was marked by the presence of the U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon who stated that: "Empowered women with mastery of the right IT skills can generate new entrepreneurial ventures and increase women's participation in the new global market economy. Your success in completing this program, your dedication to new knowledge, will open exciting new

opportunities both today and in the future."

Since its beginning in 2008, the WIT program has trained over 500 Lebanese women. The WIT is a MEPI-funded program in partnership with Microsoft and administered by the Institute of International Education in San Francisco. The program aims to empower women and expand their participation in the workforce and civil society by providing women and local partner organizations with cutting-edge training in business planning, professional development and information technology.

The graduation of the women from the WIT program received extensive positive press coverage by different Lebanese newspapers. Assafir daily newspaper stated that "the WIT training program aims to help women acquire IT skills that allow them to be involved in the development of their communities through fostering professional networks." Al Anwar daily newspaper stated that reported on the Ambassador's remarks pointing out the tools that the WIT program has provided women with in order to empower them and maximize their opportunities in learning, working and managing professional networks."