

The Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Regional Conference

(March 24-28, 1985)

The third «Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Conference» was convened in Abu-Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates under the sponsorship of H.R.H. the ruler of U.A.E.; and was hosted by the General Federation of the United Arab Emirates Women.

Among the hundred-and-twenty delegates that participated in the conference was the delegation of Kuwait headed by *Dr. Rasha as-Sabah*, as well as members of the Kuwait women organizations and researchers from the University of Kuwait and the ministries. *Mr. Abdallah al-Mazroui*, opened the conference on behalf of H.R.H., the ruler of U.A.E., by stating that Islam has safeguarded the rights of women, and encouraged knowledge and education.⁽¹⁾

During the conference, twenty-three studies were presented, and evolved around the following areas:

- The role of Women in social and economic development, with special emphasis on the potential of Arab women, which could enhance the process of development, if women were given the right chance to use the potential.

- Education, the Media, and the effect of marriage on women's work; all the studies have emphasized the need of eradication of illiteracy.
- Vocational training and development for women.
- The role of women organizations in enhancing women's participation in work.
- The Arab legislation concerning work.

The following recommendations were suggested:⁽²⁾

- To acknowledge the final draft of the official structure of the committee of coordination in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, with its headquarter in Kuwait.
- To form a committee of *Louloua al-Qutami* (Kuwait), President.
Fatma al-Issa (Kuwait), secretary general of finance.
Rawda al-Mutawa (U.A.E.), assistant.
Hutham al-Mahdi (Iraq), assistant.

It also included a representative from Bahrain, who was to be named later.

- To hold meetings every six months.
- To decide on when and where to convene the next conference.^(*)

(1) Al-Roumi, article in «Journal of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies», pp. 273-279.

(2) Ibid., pp. 277-278.

(*) The fourth regional conference is going to be convened in Iraq or Bahrain in March, 1986.

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