

WOMEN RELATE SPRINGBOARD SUCCESS STORIES ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Members of British Council's popular self-development programme for women, Springboard, had the opportunity to relate their success stories at a function held in Riyadh, Jeddah and Al-Khobar to mark International Women's Day.

The events included question-and-answer sessions where Springboard developments were discussed in an atmosphere of camaraderie and warmth.

Dr. Fawziah Al-Baker, a professor at King Saud University, was the British Council's guest speaker in Riyadh. Dr. Fawziah spoke of the Springboard's efforts to guide women into gaining self-recognition and setting goals. Citing the example of Nora Al-Fayez, newly appointed deputy education minister for women's affairs, she highlighted the important role of women in developing Saudi society.

Dr. Samia Al-Amoudi, a breast cancer specialist, was the British Council's guest speaker at the function in Jeddah. Dr. Samia has played an essential role in creating awareness of the importance of early examinations for breast cancer, and has worked constantly in the service of Saudi women.

Hiba Jamal, presenter of the popular 'Kalam Nawaem' programme on MBC channel, was also present at the Jeddah event. Jamal said although women have reached high positions in society, they still face several barriers in realizing their goals and ambitions.

Muna Al-Toaimi, Manager of the Women's Centre at the Prince Mohammed Program for Youth Development in the Eastern Province, referred to women's role in developing their communities and society as a whole. She pointed out to the strong foundation built by Springboard to enable women to meet their goals based on their interests and aspirations. The large participation of more than 150 women at the programmes in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Al-Khobar reflects the popularity of the Springboard programme. As one success story speaker said, "Springboard inculcates confidence in women and motivates them to achieve success."

British Council introduced the Springboard programme to Saudi Arabia in 2004. More than 600 Saudi women from different backgrounds have participated in its workshops.