



Continued cooperation between the Union of Arab Banks and UN-ESCWA



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On Tuesday 3 February 2009, Head of the Union of Arab Banks Adnan Ahmed Youssef paid a visit to UN-ESCWA, where he met with Executive Secretary Bader Omar AlDafa. Both parties discussed cooperation within the framework of development programs, honing the skills of professionals in this field, drafting studies and researches, and exchanging advisory services and expertise.

During the meeting, AlDafa gave

Youssef a detailed view of the programs and projects that UN-ESCWA offers to member countries, specifically those on development and energy, in addition to scientific researches and developing the expertise of those concerned with development issues.

Youssef expressed the Union's appreciation to the development role underscored by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and stressed energy projects, as well as


boosting expertise in dealing with crises. He also called for devising urgent plans to confront unemployment.

"We will work with concerned Arab and international parties, as well as Arab banks to facilitate credit-giving, prepare programs in support of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), and to direct Arab investment to new opportunities that will help revive the economy in the region" Youssef added. ■

Renewable Energy on the Table

The past two decades witnessed the development of several renewable energy technologies, some of which have already been applied in different areas. The use of renewable energy technologies for meeting the energy needs of rural and remote areas adds a push to the achievement of two Millennium Development Goals: 1 "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" and 7 "Ensure Environmental Sustainability".

The UN-ESCWA region is endowed with abundant renewable energy sources, especially solar, wind and biofuels energy. Member countries have exerted varying efforts to conduct inventories and assessments of their renewable energy sources, and to improve the use of renewable energy technologies.

However, despite the achievement of some successes in this domain, 



Renewable Energy on the Table (Cont.)



including large-scale electricity production from solar and wind energy, renewable energy applications in the Arab region remain limited, and have not been extensively used in order to fill the existing gap in energy services.

In this context, and in collaboration with the Lebanese Solar Energy Society (LSES),

UN-ESCWA is organizing this week an Expert Group Meeting on “Best Practices and Measures for Promoting Renewable Energy Applications in ESCWA Region”, (3 and 4 February 2009- Beirut). Back to back with the meeting, the UN-ESCWA Committee on Energy is also convening its seventh session on 5-6 February, at the UN House. ■

UN-ESCWA Publication

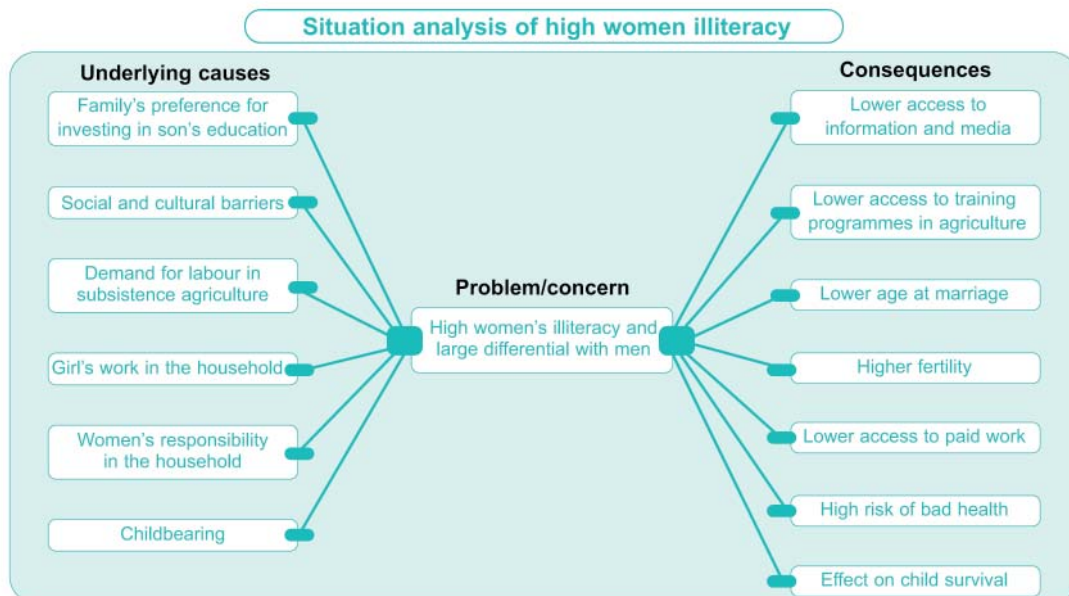
Urbanization and Poor Slums

UN-ESCWA issued the first report on the current situation and future prospects of Arab cities, entitled “Urbanization and the Poor Slums Challenge”. The report highlights concepts of good urban governance, social inclusion and secure tenure. It also presents a general framework for different aspects of urbanization and poor slums, to value and assess current governmental policies in this regard. It also focuses on imple-



mented mechanism and ways to improve the quality of life in poor urban slums and prevent the creation of new ones in the near future. The report includes some regional and international basic principles and good practices, applied to tackle the issue of poor city slums in an efficient way. ■

Facts and Figures: Situation Analysis of High Women Illiteracy



Source: Gender in the Millennium Development Goals, Information Guide for Arab Millennium Development Goals Reports, UN-ESCWA 2007, from: Statistics Sweden, Engendering Statistics, A Handbook for Change, 1996.

Address

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut-Lebanon
Tel.: 961-1-981301; Fax: 961-1-981510

e-mail: webmaster-escwa@un.org
website: www.escwa.un.org