



## Press Release

### **Arab and African Businesswomen Forum**

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), in coordination with Arab Businesswomen's Council, organized a "Forum for Arab and African Businesswomen" during the period 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Forum was attended by participants from Arab and African businesswomen associations and unions, in addition to representatives from the Arab Financing Institutions Coordination Group.

The Forum was held under the theme "Arab and African Woman and Entrepreneurship" and aimed at shedding light on BADEA's objectives as a financial institution enhancing Afro-Arab cooperation. It also aimed at highlighting the successful experiences of Arab and African businesswomen.

The opening ceremony was addressed by HE Abdel Aziz Khelef, Director General of BADEA, who explained that the purpose of this meeting is to develop and reinforce the economic partnership between Arab and African businesswomen, through benefiting from the available economic and commercial opportunities in Arab and African regions.

The Forum discussed working papers on "Woman and Development", "Woman and Entrepreneurship" and "Perspectives of Cooperation between Arab and African Businesswomen". It issued "Dubai Declaration" which stipulated the formation of Arab and African Businesswomen Union, under the chairpersonship of H.H Sheikha Hessa Al Sabah, Chairwoman of the Arab Businesswomen's Council, Mrs. Joanne Mwangi, CEO of East African Businesswomen Council, as a deputy, and membership of eight Arab and African businesswomen, to be nominated later.