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Women Leaders in Energy

This series of “Jordan’s Women in Energy” highlights women in the public and private sector who serve as an inspiration to both women and men seeking energy careers.



H.E. Amani Al Azzam
Secretary General
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources

“This is a good time for women in the energy sector – things have changed. When I started, there were only 3 women in NEPCO. Now they are about 20% of the workforce – and it’s ‘normal’ for them to travel for work.”

For more resources on Jordan’s Women in Energy:

<http://escb-jordan.org/women-in-energy-resources/>

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Twenty years ago, Eng. Amani Al Azzam chose a career not usually open to women. One of only five female students in her class studying electrical engineering, she chose to specialize in the power sector “because women did not usually do that.”

“People say women should not work in energy. But women who started out with me faced a much harder time than they do now. We have shown that we can do anything we set our minds to.”

Amani is now the first female Secretary General for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. She is also Secretary General of the Eight Country Interconnection Project (EIJLLPST).

Amani worked in a range of roles at the National Electric Power Company (NEPCO). Starting as a planning engineer gave her exposure to all types of projects: power expansion, country interconnection, financial analysis and donor relations.

Although she had strong support from colleagues and supervisors, Amani did miss some opportunities for international exposure due to an attitude that women should not travel.

But with perseverance and workplace support, she became involved in the EIJLLPST project and was often sent to international events. In 2011, the NEPCO Board of Directors appointed her as Head of Planning Section even though some of her colleagues felt she “would probably just have more babies and neglect her work”.

Amani loves challenges, whether technical or managerial. She gives this advice to women and men starting out in the sector: learn at every opportunity, establish trust, and do any task you’re given. “I was always given the writing jobs because I was a woman. Now I am one of the best writers of my colleagues. In the end you benefit, even if it’s for the wrong reasons.”