

Australian Professional Women Delegations (APWD) Testimonials

“Fiona Hill provided great leadership throughout the trip and prepared us with the right amount of information to give us security and background. She impressed our hosts with her command and use of Arabic, and us with her cultural sensitivity. It was a great broadening experience for me and in many ways one of those 'trips of a lifetime'.

Christine Bishop, Strategy & Planning Manager, Woodside Energy Ltd.

“I have a greater appreciation of the Arab region that is enhanced by the input of Fiona Hill who has a long experience and deep love for the Arab countries, all manifested by her in a most appropriate, deep and sensitive manner. Everyone in the group, and possibly even our hosts, benefited from Fiona’s cross-cultural expertise and abilities.”

Susan Scollay, Islamic Art & Textile Historian

“I now have an entirely different understanding of the Middle East and of Arabs. Neither is any longer monolithic or menacing. “

Susan Wakeling, Magistrate (Victoria)

“I feel a sense of embarrassment that I could be tertiary educated and work in the cultural profession for 20 years and yet remain so ignorant of the Arab and Muslim world. This trip, and Fiona Hill’s facilitation of it, was invaluable in starting me on the path of greater awareness and a new professional interest.”

Clare Williamson, Senior Curator, State Library of Victoria

“To go on such a privileged program of access to places, people and ideas, supported all the way by someone with such experience and love for the Arab and Islamic world, was a truly unique experience.”

Megan Durant, Associate Director of International Programs, La Trobe University

“I can’t think of anyone who could provide the same level of access in Asia as Fiona Hill does in the Arab region. Her knowledge of the Arab countries, her ability to move comfortably with people at all levels, and her pre-tour briefing materials made the visit completely unique. The quality of the people she selected for the delegation made the trip work so well, and each one added value to the experience.”

Jill Wilson, State Advisor, Asia Education Foundation

“The women leaders with whom we met took us a long way beyond the sort of stereotypes that are held about Arab women. They and their male counterparts provided the ‘human’ face as well as insights into some of their very particular concerns. The visit provided the opportunity to experience the strong emotions embedded in the political issues. Because of Australia’s particular location and history, we seldom experience issues at this level of intensity and it’s almost impossible to get a clear picture through the media”.

Jacinta Halloran, General Medicine Practitioner & Award-winning Author

“Dr. Fiona Hill deals in such a gracious and dignified manner, in Arabic and at a diplomatic level. The Saudis clearly respected her, and this reflected well on us all.”

Tricia Sabey, Owner Zacher Antiques