



For Immediate Release
September 11, 2007
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Contracting Training Day Expands Networks

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BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division's Capacity Development Office and the Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan joined with the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team's Economic Committee to organize the second "Contracting Training and Networking Day" offered to the Iraqi business community Sept. 8.

The four hour event held in the Al-Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad's International Zone was sponsored by Ramin Group of Companies.

The conference objective was to train Iraqi vendors how to search the U.S. Government website for solicitations, how to fill out required applications and forms and to become familiar with responding to tenders. Once attendees completed the training they met with representatives of International and Iraqi firms to begin establishing working relationships.

"Networking is an essential aspect," said Azza Humadi, Gulf Region Division project manager-Women's Advocate Initiative. "Every conference we try to invite new [people] in order to open network opportunities."

More than 40 Iraqi vendors, 15 of which were from women owned companies.

15 U.S. and Iraqi companies participated in the event. Faisal Qaragholi the Senior Vice President from Ramin Group said the event was a success, he men-



Attendees of a contracting training and networking day learn how to obtain contracts for U.S. Government funded work. [USACE Photo]

tioned in his speech that gathering our efforts is so important to achieve success in the rebuilding of the new Iraq.

The Capacity Development Office & the Joint Contracting Command intention is to offer the joint training and networking monthly. "Each month we will have it funded by a new company," Humadi said. "We will have our third one tentatively on Oct. 27. The sponsor is another Iraqi firm, supporting the Iraqi-first program." Humadi the organizer of this event (works for Stanley Baker Hill, LLC) has been organizing over ten conferences in the same subject, working on this program since early 2005.

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