

# 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.*



**Dr. Eng. Wejdan Al Rabadi**  
**Commissioner**  
**Energy and Minerals Regulatory**  
**Commission (EMRC)**

***“There is a great future for women to contribute to the in the energy sector. We are gradually building energy sector and adjusting to huge obstacles – financial, technical and managerial.”***

***For more resources on Jordan’s Women in Energy:***

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

***#WomENERGYJO***

“But you can’t climb an electricity pole!” That was the reaction of Wejdan Al Rabadi’s friends and family when she announced she was going to study electrical engineering.

Not only did she go ahead and study what she wanted, but in 1994 she was the first woman to earn a Master’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Jordan. One of 10 children, her father died when she was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. That did not stop her family from making sure that all the children – boys and girls – obtained a good education.

Wejdan credits hard work and family support to getting where she is today - serving as the Commissioner of Jordan’s Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission. She is a UK Chartered Engineer, senior member of the American IEEE, and Honor Secretary and Treasurer of the British Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Wejdan started at the Ministry of Public Works, and then worked in planning at the National Electric Power Company. In 1996, she moved to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, where she worked in a range of positions until being selected as Commissioner.

“I was chosen for Commissioner due to my competence, of course. But also because I had experience in all different areas of the energy sector – cost pricing, technical work, planning, etc.”

“I faced huge obstacles. I took responsibility and overcame them. You have to be the best and work hard. Anyone could have faced these challenges – male or female.”

Wejdan says that woman often have to make difficult choices about work/life balance. “Make your own decisions; don’t worry about what others think.” For both men and women she reminds them “Nobody can work on your behalf. Work hard on your own, but ask for help if you need it. Admit your mistakes and learn from them.”