**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dubai. October 26, 2017**

**Arab Woman Awards Kuwait 2017**

**Winners Announced**

***Deputy Foreign Minister HE Reem Al Khaled wins Government award***

***Dr Kefaya Abdulmalek named Inspirational Woman of the Year***

The Arab Woman Awards last night held its fifth annual ceremony at the newly opened Four Seasons Kuwait under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Emiri Diwan.

The ceremony was held in partnership with Hayatt Breast Cancer Foundation and honoured 24 inspiring Arab women who were selected to win in the award’s various categories in recognition of their outstanding contributions across fields including business, the arts, philanthropy and medicine. This year’s edition of the awards acknowledged inventor Hawraa Al Qallaf, who created a new technology for hearing impaired parents to alert them if their babies are in distress; artist Alia Farid who recently had her first solo exhibition in Paris and Dr Kefaya Abdulmalek who was named ‘Inspirational Arab Woman of the Year 2017’ for her outstanding work in the field of medicine.

HE Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah chaired the judging board and said of the winners “These women help us as a nation to develop so we should rightly be proud of the work they are doing to continuously push forward and improve people’s lives here. I personally always find it amazing to discover women in Kuwait, who you may not have even heard about before, achieving things for the greater good.”

This year’s winners included Managing Director for Schlumberger in Kuwait, Shaima Salmeen; shooting sisters Sarah & Shahad Al Hawal who both won the sports award; social media sensation Fouz Al Fahad; founder of the Engineers Without Borders in Kuwait, humanitarian Zainab Garashi and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Reem Al Khaled.

On winning her award for her work in the government sector Ambassador HE Reem Al Khaled said “I am extremely proud to receive this accolade xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

A special tribute was paid to the late Sheikha Souad Al Homaizi who was considered to be one of the most pioneering women in business in Kuwait with an award presented posthumously to her daughter, Reem AlGhanim. Sheikh Mubarak also

acknowledged the work of the women from Hayatt Breast Cancer Foundation with his own judges’ choice award.

The private event was attended by over 250 dignitaries including members of the Kuwait royal family, ambassadors, doctors, leading businesswomen, winners and their families. Guests were treated to an operatic soprano by Bosnian singer Aida Corbadzic who had flown in especially for the evening and enjoyed a unique three course meal created by Four Seasons head chef Sebastiano Spriveri.

Winners of the Arab Woman Awards Kuwait 2017:

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| Lifetime Achievement | Dr Samira Asem |
| Inspirational Woman of the Year | Dr Kefaya Abdulmalek |
| Government | HE Ambassador Reem Al Khaled |
| Business | May Al Mudhaf |
| Special Recognition (Posthumous) | Sheikha Suad Al Homaizi |
| Young Talent | Sheikha Badriyyah Al Sabah |
| Humanitarian | Zainab Garashi |
| Media | Reem Almee |
| New Media | Fouz Al Fahad |
| Fashion Designer | Lulu & Najla Al Mishari |
| Young Designer/s | Farah Al Humaidhi (Interior)  Farah Sultan (Fashion) |
| Art | Alia Farid |
| Sport | Sarah & Shahad Al Hawal |
| Medical | Dr Ghanima Al Omer |
| Energy | Shaima Salmeen |
| Legal | Asma AlGhanim |
| Finance | Sahar Al Rumaih |
| Entrepreneur/s | Ghada Khalaf & Dr Mai Khalaf  Dana Tareq Bader Salem Al Mutawa |
| Inventor/s | Hawraa Al Qallaf  Shaikhah Anwar Almajed |

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About the Arab Woman Awards**

The Arab Woman Awards were launched in 2009 by ITP in Dubai with the aim of raising public awareness of the significant achievements by Arab women and to provide young women with inspirational role models. The event runs across the GCC and is an annual opportunity to shed light on inspiring Arab women and offers attendees and winners the chance to open communication channels, create networks and share their stories of success. The board of judges for Kuwait are led by HE Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah and include co-founder Dr Labiba Temmim and designer Sheikh Souad JA Al-Sabah.

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