

## **Secretary General of UEF Marwan Awartani becomes new chair of the Arab Foundations Forum**

Arab Foundations Forum (AFF), an association of Arab Foundations based in Amman, Jordan met for the eighth time to discuss its further organisational development. The meeting took place on March 20-21, 2009 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, hosted by the Emirates Foundation.

Resulting from its newly approved governance policies, AFF members met to elect their new Board of Directors. Following this election, the newly appointed Board of Directors elected Marwan Awartani of the Universal Education Foundation to be the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the next two years. Marwan's role will be to lead further the strategic development of the association, help with member recruitment, stabilising the institution, and developing its programme activities. Given the scope of his responsibilities, Marwan also became the Chair of the new Programme Committee of AFF.

Among other achievements in Abu Dhabi, UEF organised a thematic session aimed at mobilising interest among Arab Foundations to join the *Education by All for the Well-being of Children* initiative. The goal of this initiative is to grow into an AFF supported interest group that would mirror the developments at the European Foundation Centre in Europe and create a platform for foundations in the Arab region to further together the joint vision of *Education by All for the Well-being of Children*.

The meeting in Abu Dhabi helped to confirm involvement of already interested foundations and attracted new foundations on board, which now makes 13 foundations in total interested to join UEF's efforts in the Arab region. At the same time, the initiative received substantial support from AFF and impetus to cooperate on putting together general interest group guidelines with AFF, while building and strengthening the *Education by All for the Well-being of Children* AFF interest group.