



OCTOBER 12, 2010

ABU DHABI BOARD MEETING

EWI CO-CHAIRMAN FRANCIS FINLAY

TONIGHT, THE EASTWEST INSTITUTE FAMILY AROUND THE WORLD IS PROUD TO HONOR AN OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL, “THE MOTHER OF THE NATION”, HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA FATIMA BINT MUBARAK.

IN PRESENTING HER WITH THE “VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP AWARD,” THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EASTWEST INSTITUTE RECOGNIZES HER HIGHNESS’ DISTINGUISHED AND INSPIRING LEADERSHIP RECORD.

TRUE LEADERSHIP IS A BRAVE AND SELFLESS UNDERTAKING THAT REQUIRES FORTITUDE, IMAGINATION AND COURAGE. LEADERSHIP ENTAILS THE FORESIGHT TO SEE THE BIG PICTURE AND ENVISION WHAT MIGHT BE, YET THE SENSITIVITY TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DETAIL.

VALUES ARE THE ESSENCE OF WHO WE ARE AS HUMAN BEINGS. THE MOST EFFECTIVE LEADERS ARE THOSE WHO KNOW THEIR OWN VALUES AND ALWAYS ACT IN CONCERT WITH THEM. VALUES INFLUENCE THE

DECISIONS WE MAKE: THEY GUIDE U IN THE WORK WE DO, THE RELATIONSHIPS WE BUILD, AND, ULTIMATELY, THE GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS WE LEAD. VALUES–BASED LEADERSHIP PROMOTES ETHICAL AND MORAL LEADERSHIP, LEADING WITH DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER AND INSPIRING COMMITMENT. VALUES SPEAK TO THE QUALITY OF A LEADER. VALUES ENDURE; THEY ARE ABSOLUTE, UNCHANGING AND NON-NEGOTIABLE. THEY CONNECT US WITH OUR MOST POWERFUL DRIVERS: CONSCIENCE, INTEGRITY AND SELF-RESPECT; THE BEDROCKS FROM WHICH OUR CAPACITY TO LEAD OURSELVES AND OTHERS ARE CONSTRUCTED.

HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA FATIMA HAS BEEN THE EMBODIMENT OF VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PROMOTING THE CAUSE OF WOMEN WAS ESSENTIAL TO ADVANCING THE NATION, SHEIKHA FATIMA—ENCOURAGED BY HER HUSBAND, HIS HIGHNESS THE LATE SHEIKH ZAYED—WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION IN 1973; ABU DHABI SOCIETY FOR THE AWAKENING OF WOMEN. SHE LAUNCHED A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG GIRLS, AS SHE CONSIDERED ILLITERACY TO BE THE FIRST OBSTACLE IN WAY OF PROGRESS. IT IS NO SMALL ACHIEVEMENT THAT ILLITERACY—AT ONE TIME EXCEEDING 75 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION—IS NOW ALMOST ENTIRELY ERADICATED.

IN 1975—DUE TO SHEIKHA FATIMA’S EFFORTS—THE UAE WOMEN’S FEDERATION WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE AIM OF EMPOWERING WOMEN, PROMOTING EDUCATION AND ILLUMINATING ILLITERACY AMONG ADULT WOMEN. SHEIKHA FATIMA AGGRESSIVELY CAMPAIGNED FOR THE WOMEN OF THE UAE TO WORK IN MEDIA AND BECOME MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY’S PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, THE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL (FNC).

THE RESULTS SPOKE TO SUCCESS: IN DECEMBER 2006, MRS. AMAL AL-QAISI BECAME THE FIRST ELECTED FEMALE MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL (PARLIAMENT) AND THE RULERS OF THE VARIOUS EMIRATES APPOINTED EIGHT OTHER WOMEN TO THE FNC AS PART OF THEIR JURISDICTION TO NOMINATE 20 APPOINTED MEMBERS. IT IS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO SHEIKHA FATIMA’S HARD WORK THAT THE CURRENT FNC INCLUDES NINE WOMEN OUT OF ITS 40 MEMBERS.

HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA FATIMA HAS NOT RESTRICTED HER HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TO THE NATIONAL REALM ALONE. HER PIONEERING ROLE IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN’S CAUSES HAS HAD NOT ONLY REGIONAL, BUT INTERNATIONAL, INFLUENCE. HER HIGHNESS NEVER FORGOT THE SUFFERING OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE; SHE REACHED OUT TO THE NEEDY IN KOSOVO, AND IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ. THE COMBINED CHARITY AND HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE UAE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY (RCS)

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA FATIMA IS IMPRESSIVE.

THROUGH THE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATIONS, HER HIGHNESS HAS CONVEYED HER VISION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAMILY BY SEEKING THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHILE ENSHRINING THE VALUES AND CULTURE OF THE FAMILY. THE FOUNDATION CURRENTLY OPERATES WITH 17 CENTERS WHICH PROVIDE KINDERGARTENS, ADULT EDUCATION CENTERS, AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION WHILE EASING THE BURDEN OF TUITION.

HER HIGHNESS' CONTINUOUS INSPIRATION, GUIDANCE, COMMITMENT, AND LEADERSHIP FORM A TRIBUTE TO ALL WOMEN AND MEN OF THE REGION AND INDEED SERVE AS A BEACON TO ALL HUMANITY.