

WORDS OF WELCOME

Richard G. Wilkins
Managing Director
Doha International Institute for
Family Studies and Development

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a profound honor for me, as Managing Director of the *Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development* to take a few moments to welcome you to this important Colloquium as well as to introduce you briefly to my Institute.

I am particularly grateful for the kind support of the First Lady of this nation, Madam Margarita Zavala, and for her presence here today.

I would also like to thank the organizers of this event.

This Colloquium is a joint effort of the association of *Family and Society* as well as *The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development*. The Institute is an interdisciplinary research institute, specializing in questions, policies and issues relative to family life. The Institute was founded in 2005 following the conclusion of the 2004 International Conference, in the tenth anniversary of the international year of the family.

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, Consort of His Highness the Emir of Qatar and President of the Qatar Foundation, established the Institute by gathering distinguished Board of Governors together in New York City in September 2005.

The Institute's Board members include Mr. Jesus Hernandez, who preceded me today at the podium. Mr. Hernandez meets with all the members of Board in November each year to set the plan of actions for the coming year for the Institute.

The Institute reflects the commitment of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah to establish and support a global study center that will provide the region - and the world - with academic research, interdisciplinary studies, and policy initiatives to support the efforts of governments, international organizations, UN agencies, and members of civil society strengthening the family as the fundamental group unit of society. These initiatives, of course, include the very serious issues relative to migration and its impact upon the family.

The institute operates with three divisions:

- Implementation and Social Outreach Division
- Family Policy Division
- Family Research Division

I want to invite you to visit our website www.fsd.org.qa where you can learn more about the Institute and also have access to our global family information system.

It is a truly an honor for The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development to join the organizers at this event to examine world migration and how it relates to family and family life. It is my hope that the next two days will benefit and improve the life of migrant workers in Mexico, the Latin-American region and hopefully the world. Migration is both an opportunity and a challenge for family life matters, to reduce the challenges and improve the opportunities for migrant workers and their families.

Thank you.