



Obituary Note

Professor Sidiga WASHI, Ph.D.
(1955 - 2018)

International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) President 2016 - 2018

With deepest regret, we say good-bye to IFHE President Prof. Sidiga WASHI (2016 - 2018) who suddenly passed away on 3rd October 2018. The IFHE and its members have not only lost a passionate and inspiring leader in the field of Home Economics, they also mourn a strong, intelligent and diplomatic woman, modest for herself and always looking after others' well-being. Her premature passing is a great loss for her family, the Ahfad University for Women and all IFHE Members around the world. The Federation has lost a President whose area of influence spanned the globe.



Sidiga was an expert in the field of Nutrition Education, Community Nutrition and Family Sciences. With a background in Zoology-Chemistry from the University of Qatar, she went on to complete a Ph.D. in Family & Consumer Sciences Education with emphasis on Nutrition, at Iowa State University, USA. Among other accomplishments, Prof. Sidiga WASHI served as Advisory Board Member for the Family and Consumer Sciences Leadership Academy of Iowa State University; as President of the Sudanese Environmental and Nutrition Society; as Chair of the Board for the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa; as Member of the Council for Africa in Democracy and Good Governance, Gambia; as Board Member of Equality Now International, New York.



Sidiga's professional experience spanned consultancies at Harvard University and UNICEF. She held high ranking academic leadership positions at the King Saud University in Saudi Arabia as well as at the United Arab Emirates University. At the time of her passing, she served as Director for Quality Assurance and Institutional Assessment and as Professor of Community Nutrition at the School of Health Sciences at the Ahfad University for Women in Khartoum, Sudan.

Sidiga's history with IFHE started as early as 1988 and since then, she participated and presented papers at all IFHE Congresses. Her commitment to the Federation was manifold.

She was Chair and Advisor to Organising Committees for IFHE African Regional Conferences in Sudan, in Swaziland and in Cameroon. She acted as Chair of several Programme Committees; served as Vice-President for the Region of Africa on the IFHE Executive Committee, and coordinated an IFHE Representation a forum at the United Nations. In 2014, at the IFHE Council Meeting held in London, Ontario, Canada, she was unanimously voted in as IFHE President-Elect for the period 2014 - 2016. She was installed as the newest IFHE President during Council 2016 held in South Korea. She took over her Presidency during the Closing Ceremony of the 2016 World Congress, and in her inaugural address she pledged to grow the IFHE in membership and programmes, to advance the organisation's visibility in promoting the discipline of Home Economics globally.

With gratitude, we remember Sidiga's commitment to the IFHE. We remember the overwhelming hospitality she bestowed on our organisation by hosting the Federation's recent Council Meeting in Khartoum, in the spring of 2018. Those of us who were present at that meeting will remember fondly, the wonderful time we spent during that special time when we shared her professional space with her and her colleagues, at the Ahfad University for Women.

Although modest for herself, Sidiga acted as role model for many women. She influenced the lives of many and always encouraged young people to learn and to study. We will fondly remember her love and dedication to our Federation and Home Economics in general.

The thoughts of the IFHE global family are with Sidiga's family as well as with her professional family at the Ahfad University for Women in Khartoum. Her sincere devotion and contribution to IFHE will remain in our memories forever.

May your soul rest eternal, dear sister, mentor, friend and colleague!

Bonn, 6th October 2018