Power Failure: The Political Odyssey of a Pakistani Woman

Ms Syeda Abida Hussain
Former politician and Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States

Tuesday 18 October, 2016: 6pm for 6.20pm – 7.30pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Minister in the Nawaz Sharif government in the 1990s, and Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States from 1991-1994, Syeda Abida Hussain has detailed 40 years of experience in a recently published book. AIIA Victoria is delighted to welcome her to Melbourne to discuss her remarkable career.

In Power Failure: The Political Odyssey of a Pakistani Woman, published by Oxford University Press in 2015, Syeda Abida Hussain outlines the impacts that key political events in Pakistan have had on her personal life — and on the destiny of the nation. It is a political autobiography which gives an insider view into the tumultuous political events in Pakistan from Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’s rule from the early 1970s to the assassination of Benazir Bhutto in 2007.

After a privileged childhood, and then entry into local politics, Syeda Abida Hussain discusses the hurdles and struggles that she faced along the way as a female politician in the male-dominated society of rural Punjab. She provides insights into the high developmental potentials of Pakistan at the time of Partition in 1947; the challenges of poverty and inequality since the country’s inception; and the consequent rise of militant and extremist groups emerging out of religiosity rather than religion onto its political landscape.

AIIA Victoria invites you to a unique opportunity to hear at first-hand how Syeda Abida Hussain blazed a trail at the highest levels of politics in Pakistan, and of international diplomacy in Washington.

Syeda Abida Hussain is a Pakistani politician, diplomat and agriculturist. Hailing from Jhang situated in Punjab province, Syeda Abida Hussain has the distinction of being the first woman to chair the District Council of Jhang, and the first woman to be popularly elected as a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan. Having been appointed as Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States from 1991 to 1994, she also served as Minister for Education, Science and Technology (1996), Minister for Food and Agriculture (1997), Minister for Population Welfare, and as Minister for Environment and Urban Affairs (1999).