

**Speech of Vice Rector Sra. Anna Ardévol, University of Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona
October 3, 2011**

Hon. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Siyabi
Hon. Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in Madrid
Dr Olivé

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning and welcome to the Universitat Rovira i Virgili. Our university receives with great honor this exhibition and especially the representatives of the government of Oman, Mr. Al-Siyabi and Mr. Helal Al-Maamari. This exhibition, which begins its way through our land here at the URV, provides fundamental values in the international field to help improve understanding among peoples and thereby contribute to promoting the multiculturalism of the members of our institution and region.

I would like to offer a few words to briefly introduce our institution. The Universitat Rovira i Virgili is the public university of Southern Catalonia. It is of a medium to small size, with about 12,000 undergraduate students and about 1500 graduates. They are distributed in 47 undergraduate degrees, 38 masters and 32 doctoral programs in all fields of knowledge. This University, since its inception 20 years ago, has a highly research-oriented profile, because we believe that the creation of knowledge is the fundamental academic activity, which enables higher quality teaching, and a social service in the most appropriate environment.

The international outlook is also one of the basic pillars of our institution. The international vision is the creation of innate knowledge, which must reach around the world to be really useful in helping individuals and their evolution. But is now also a basic element, as the evolution of technology has interconnected all people and we need to be able to understand each other clearly, whatever our differences but at the same time, being able to respect them.

This exhibition which you bring to our institution, and the information which you provide, clearly contributes to this objective, and it also allows us to initiate relationships between communities that we currently do not have, so that we may open new paths.

So, welcome to the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, it is a pleasure to be able to enjoy this exhibition in our institution. Thank you very much to all who have collaborated in this task.