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| Eric Smith: | I'm Eric Smith, I'm the CEO of Swiss Re and it is my great honor to introduce Neeti to you this evening and give her award. Neeti Bhalla Johnson is the Head of Investments for Liberty Mutual. Liberty of course is one of the most important and one of the largest insurance organizations in the world. She leads a team of professionals that look after nearly 100 billion dollars of assets on behalf of Liberty. |
|  | But let me tell you about the early story, because she is definitely a global citizen, someone who has accomplished so much in her career that we will talk about, but there's also an interesting human story and part of it is reflected in the fact that right over there, at her table number 15, there's quite a few of her family members here tonight to support her. |
|  | Her journey started in India, that's where she was born. As a very young child, her father decided to relocate their family to Kenya, Nairobi Kenya, so there she went. I think she was in the third grade or so, when she started there. Her journey took her to university in Nairobi. She graduated at the top of her class. And what that allowed her to do is she got to spend an hour or two with the individual that was now running the relatively new Nairobi Stock Exchange in Kenya. And in that encounter, she explained how interested she was in the exchange and she really wanted to be part of it and she wanted to come work for him. And he explained that that wasn't going to happen, because there was no budget for it and it just wasn't going to work out. |
|  | So what did she do? She said, "I still want to come work for you, I'll come work for free." And he said, "Well, if that's what you want to do, we'll move forward." So she did such a good job, that after one month he surprised her and gave her an envelope with the equivalent of $5 of cash and that was her reward. But then this went on for six months and then of course, you know how this goes, right? She impressed them so much that they gave her a full time job. |
|  | She then shifted gears and ended up at the Kenya Central Bank in a management training program. And that was going quite well, but towards the end of her first year, she was reading the newspaper and she came across an advertisement in the newspaper that changed her life. But I'm gonna let her fill in that part of the story. |
|  | From that she's gone on to get advanced degrees, she ended up at Goldman Sachs, became a managing director at a very young age and then in 2013 shifted to Liberty Mutual to take over their chief investment officer position. |
|  | As you might expect, she's been someone who's mentored and has been a role model for others in her profession, so she's been very supportive and has helped many people along the way. |
|  | Let's ask Neeti to come up and accept her Social Responsibility Award and let's hear from her. |