

Martti Ahtisaari

The Fulbright Prize honors President Ahtisaari for his commitments to strengthening civil society, extending democratic practices, and furthering peaceful cooperation and coexistence. His ongoing involvement in preventing crises, resolving conflicts, and promoting peace has improved life for people in some of the world's most troubled regions. As president of Finland, as a representative of the United Nations, and now as a private citizen, he has dedicated himself to making peace and in doing so, made enduring contributions to the betterment of the international community.

The J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding

The Fulbright Prize was established to honor the largest and most significant educational exchange program in history as well as the career and spirit of its creator, the late Senator J. William Fulbright. The Prize recognizes and rewards outstanding contributions towards bringing peoples, cultures, or nations to greater understanding of others. Considered for the Prize are individuals, groups or teams of individuals, and organizations in any part of the world whose contributions to breaking through the barriers that divide humankind are of such significance as to be internationally recognized.

In establishing the Prize, the Fulbright Association and its cooperating associates in the U.S. and abroad seek to recognize individuals who dedicate their energies to improving international understanding and to encourage new generations to undertake life commitments to international understanding.

The J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding has been awarded to former South African President Nelson Mandela (1993), former U.S. President Jimmy Carter (1994), former Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky (1995), former Philippine President Corazon C. Aquino (1996), Czech President Václav Havel (1997), former Chilean President Patricio Aylwin Azócar (1998), and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson (1999).

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A private, nonprofit organization of Fulbright alumni and friends, the Fulbright Association supports opportunities for international education through Fulbright exchanges and promotes U.S. engagement in international affairs through advocacy, public education, and educational and cultural enrichment programs that use the Fulbright alumni resource and serve Fulbright scholars and other international visitors currently in the United States. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Association has 37 chapters throughout the country that annually organize more than 125 educational and cultural programs.

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*The Fulbright Association
cordially invites you to attend*

*The J. William Fulbright Prize
for International Understanding Award Ceremony*

*honoring
2000 Fulbright Prize Laureate*

Martti Ahtisaari
*President of the Republic of Finland
1994-2000*

*The Fulbright Prize is supported by a grant from
The Coca-Cola Foundation.*

*Friday, December 1, 2000
International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.*

*Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. in the Amphitheater.
Reception immediately following in the Pavilion.*

*R.s.v.p. by November 27
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For International Understanding
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*Martti Ahtisaari
President of the Republic of Finland
1994-2000
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Program

Introduction

Frederick G. Acker
President, Fulbright Association

Remarks and Tribute to Martti Ahtisaari

Strobe Talbott
Deputy Secretary of State

Presentation of Fulbright Prize

Frederick G. Acker

Fulbright Prize Address

Martti Ahtisaari
2000 Laureate

Presentation of "Tribute"

(Sculpture by Sergio Dolfi)

Donald F. McHenry
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Closing

Frederick G. Acker

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Martti Ahtisaari

A diplomat for more than 30 years and president of Finland from 1994 to 2000, Martti Ahtisaari has served as peacemaker in some of the world's most troubled areas. His commitments to strengthening civil society, extending democratic practices, and furthering peaceful cooperation and coexistence have repeatedly led foreign governments to seek his aid in resolving difficult and violent conflicts.

Martti Oiva Kalevi Ahtisaari was born on June 23, 1937, in the city of Viipuri. He graduated from the University of Oulu in 1959 and joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1965. President Ahtisaari held various posts in the Ministry's Bureau for Technical Co-operation from 1965 to 1972 and held the position of deputy director, Department for International Development Co-operation, the following year. He went on to serve as ambassador of Finland to the United Republic of Tanzania and was also accredited to Zambia, Somalia, and Mozambique.

In 1977 Martti Ahtisaari became United Nations commissioner for Namibia and in 1978 was appointed special representative of the secretary-general for Namibia. When his term as commissioner came to an end, he returned to Helsinki to serve in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The UN called upon President Ahtisaari once again in 1987, when he was appointed under secretary-general for administration and management. He retained the title of special representative of the secretary-general for Namibia throughout this time and led the UN's Transition Assistance Group in Namibia from 1989 to 1990. President Ahtisaari helped to supervise Namibia's move toward independence from South Africa, playing a key role in ensuring a smooth transition through free and fair elections. In appreciation, the government of Namibia made President Ahtisaari an honorary citizen.

President Ahtisaari assumed the position of secretary of state in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1991. The following year, he was named chairman of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Working Group of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. He also served as special adviser to the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and to the UN secretary-general's special representative for the former Yugoslavia.

In February 1994 Martti Ahtisaari became the first directly-elected president of the Republic of Finland. During his tenure as president, he led Finland's entry into the European Union and took an active role in Finland's foreign and security policy. Since leaving office in February 2000, President Ahtisaari has continued his peacemaking efforts. In May the British government appointed him to the team overseeing the inspections of IRA weapons dumps in Northern Ireland. This summer the European Court of Human Rights asked President Ahtisaari to participate in a review of the Austrian government's record on human rights.

President Ahtisaari serves in leadership roles in several international institutions and foundations. He is co-chairman of the EastWest Institute and serves as a member of the joint advisors' group for the Open Society Institute and the Soros Foundation. He chairs the Balkan Youth and Children Foundation and the Global Commission of the International Youth Foundation, as well as the international board of the War-Torn Societies Project. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. Through these activities, President Ahtisaari maintains his commitment to improving the international community's ability to prevent crisis and conflict.

President Ahtisaari is married to Eeva Ahtisaari. They have one son, Marko.

2000 Fulbright Prize Laureate

Martti Ahtisaari President of Finland (1994-2000)

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