

MARTTI AHTISAARI LECTURES

On November 8, 1999, the presidents of the republics of Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland gathered in Jyväskylä to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the end of the Cold War. The presidents discussed current issues and addressed the audience in the Great Hall of the University of Jyväskylä. The Presidents in turn presented their views on the future prospects of their own country and Europe.

The 10th President of the Republic of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari, has been the most internationally-oriented President of Finland to date in terms of both career and outlook. He has received particular respect and recognition within the United Nations. His name is integrally linked to Namibia's transition to independence. Towards the end of his term as President, Mr Ahtisaari was instrumental in bringing to an end the conflict in Kosovo. President Martti Ahtisaari was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2008.

President Ahtisaari's internationally influential work has continued very convincingly even after his time as Finland's president. President Martti Ahtisaari founded the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), of which he is Chairman of the Board, in 2000. CMI works to strengthen the capacity of the international community in comprehensive crisis management and work on contacts and combines analysis, action, and advocacy.

In the spring and summer of 2005, President Ahtisaari earned credit in the peace process between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement. The negotiations led to the peace agreement in August 2005. In the autumn of 2003, he led an independent panel on the security and safety of UN personnel in Iraq. He also works as UN Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and Personal Envoy of the OSCE CiO for central Asia.

President Ahtisaari is a member of the Independent Commission on Turkey, which examines the challenges and opportunities presented by Turkey's possible accession into the European Union. He is a member of an independent Consultative Group on the Past, seeking consensus in Northern Ireland on how to best deal with the legacy of the past.

President Ahtisaari was appointed the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status process for Kosovo during 2005-2008. President Ahtisaari is active in numerous non-governmental and non-profit organisations.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2008 to Martti Ahtisaari for his important efforts, on several continents and over more than three decades, to resolve international conflicts. He also received the UNESCO's Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize for 2008.

In February 2000, representatives of the Central Finland National Defence Association, the City of Jyväskylä, the University of Jyväskylä, and the Keski-suomalainen newspaper obtained permission from President Ahtisaari to arrange an annual lecture under his name.

Speakers have included both Finnish and international statesmen: Minister Max Jakobson, Councilor of State Harri Holkeri, the Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, the President of the Republic of Estonia Arnold Rüütel, the Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, the

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President of the Republic of Macedonia Branko Crvenkovski, the President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen, President Martti Ahtisaari and the President of the Republic of Turkey Abdullah Gül.

Next Marti Ahtisaari lecture, please contact:

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