

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding

The University of Georgia

Awarded in 2008 to

Martti Ahtisaari

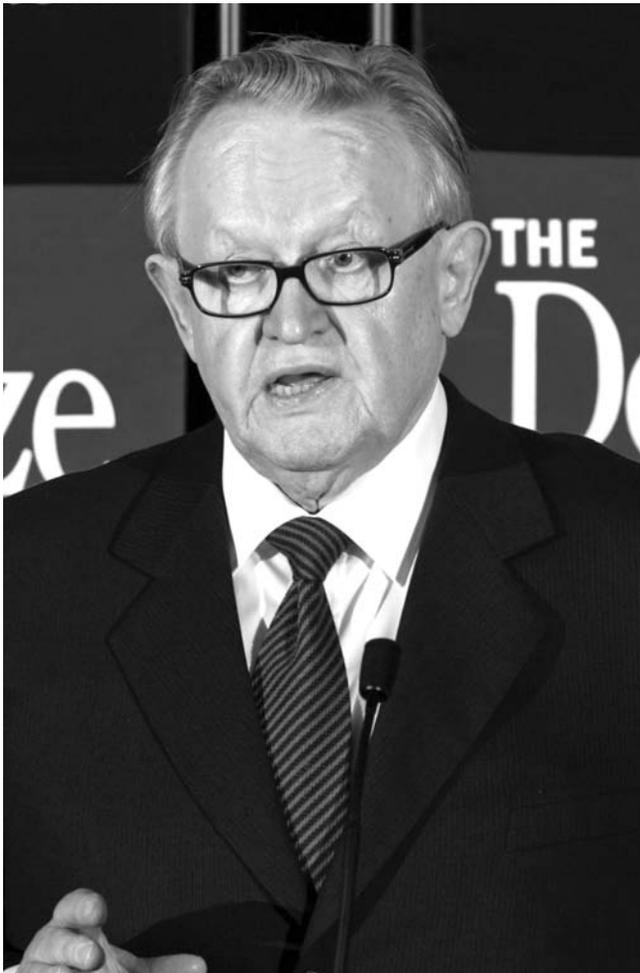


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Title page: President Martti Ahtisaari

Front cover: President Martti Ahtisaari

Inset: The Delta Prize Sculpture. The Delta Prize sculpture was designed by Barbara Mann and Gary Noffke. The sculpture consists of a sterling silver medallion, approximately 2 1/4 inches in diameter and 1/8 inch thick, held in place by a titanium pin on a bronze triangular base. The medallion portrays the earth with the abstracted continents in low relief. In raised lettering surrounding the earth are, on one side, the words "THE DELTA PRIZE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING," and, on the other side, the words "THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA." The medallion rotates in place on the stand. The name of the recipient of the Delta Prize is inscribed on the bronze base. (Photo/Paul Efland)



The Delta Prize for Global Understanding

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding, endowed by the Delta Air Lines Foundation and administered by The University of Georgia, is awarded on an annual basis to individuals who by their own initiative have provided opportunities for greater understanding among cultures and nations. The Delta Prize honors a variety of contributions to peace and cooperation, such as grassroots projects that diminish hostilities in a particular region of the world, international programs that facilitate communication or commerce among different peoples, and the leadership of individuals in the solution of global problems.

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Foreword

The University of Georgia is honored to join Delta Air Lines in presenting the ninth Delta Prize for Global Understanding to Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland.

The Delta Prize, administered by the University of Georgia, was created in 1997 with a generous gift from the Delta Air Lines Foundation to honor extraordinary individuals who have furthered intercultural and international understanding.

The Delta Prize is unique among international prizes in that it involves students in the selection process. Foundation Fellows, recipients of the University's most prestigious academic scholarship, and students from the Honors Program solicit nominations, research the nominees, and develop a short list to present to the Delta Prize Board, which selects the Delta Prize recipient.

By studying the accomplishments of the nominees, the students, who are our future leaders, learn what constitutes great leadership. And by recognizing the accomplishments of the Delta Prize recipient each year, we all learn what enables mutual understanding. In the case of President Ahtisaari, we learn that the facilitation of peaceful interaction among disputing parties requires negotiation with respect, cordiality, and impartiality.

Delta Air Lines promotes mutual understanding by transporting people around the world, enabling travelers to interact with people different from themselves. The University of Georgia likewise promotes mutual understanding by creating avenues for the exchange of ideas across borders through programs in research, teaching, and public service. Thus it is fitting that Delta and the University of Georgia collaborate in the awarding of the Delta Prize for Global Understanding to President Martti Ahtisaari, whose leadership has made the world more peaceful.

Michael F. Adams

President of The University of Georgia

Member of the Delta Prize Board

Preface

To achieve a more peaceful global community, the world needs wise and thoughtful leaders who can facilitate respectful and productive communication among peoples with conflicting interests. Such a leader is Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and recipient of the 2008 Delta Prize for Global Understanding.

The University of Georgia and Delta Air Lines honor President Ahtisaari for his leadership in the promotion of peace in the Horn of Africa, Northern Ireland, Indonesia, Kosovo, and Central Asia.

In May of 2006, the *Christian Science Monitor* published an article on Kosovo titled "Got Conflict? Mr. Ahtisaari is Your Man." Its author wrote: "The reputation of the self-deprecating former Finnish president as an impartial mediator has made him the world's 'go-to-guy' for international crises."

Mr. Ahtisaari's achievements on behalf of peace are extensive. In the late 1980s, Mr. Ahtisaari led United Nations efforts to liberate Namibia from South African rule. His efforts enabled Namibia to achieve independence in 1990, for which he was honored by South Africa for "his outstanding achievement as a diplomat and [his] commitment to the cause of freedom in Africa and peace in the world."

In 1991, Mr. Ahtisaari led the UN mission to evaluate the humanitarian and economic conditions in post-Gulf War Iraq.

After serving as President of Finland from 1994 to 2000, Mr. Ahtisaari joined a team of inspectors appointed by the British government to oversee the decommissioning of IRA weapons in Northern Ireland.

In that same year, 2000, Mr. Ahtisaari founded the Crisis Management Initiative, an independent, non-governmental organization whose purpose is to create sustainable security among inhabitants of politically troubled regions of the world. Mr. Ahtisaari and the Crisis Management Initiative negotiated the peace agreement between the government of Indonesia and the rebel forces of Aceh that was signed on August 15, 2005.

Also in 2005, Mr. Ahtisaari became the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status of Kosovo.

Mr. Ahtisaari is the “go-to-guy” for mediation of international conflicts because he has won the world’s admiration for enabling the parties of a dispute to understand each other better. That mutual understanding forms the foundation for peaceful interaction.

Accordingly, for a lifetime spent in helping the world’s diverse peoples to understand one another better, we are delighted to give the 2008 Delta Prize for Global Understanding to President Martii Ahtisaari.

Gary K. Bertsch

Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Delta Prize Program

Betty Jean Craig

Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Delta Prize Program



Gary Bertsch, Martti Ahtisaari, and Betty Jean Craig.

On Behalf of Delta

This year Delta Air Lines and the University of Georgia recognize a man who has, for more than forty years, fostered the ideals and objectives of the Delta Prize for Global Understanding. It is an honor and a privilege for Delta Air Lines and the University of Georgia to celebrate the accomplishments of President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland and present him with the 2008 Delta Prize for Global Understanding.

President Ahtisaari's contributions to cooperation, communication, commerce, peace and human rights in the world represent the values the Delta Prize honors. I will list a few of his activities.

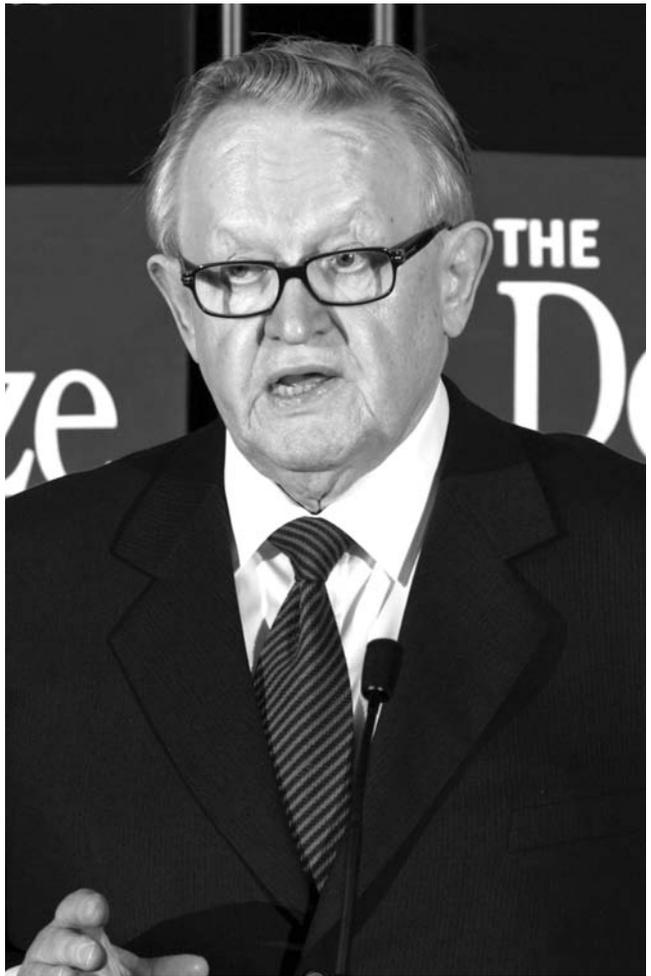
President Ahtisaari is Chairman of the Board of the Crisis Management Initiative, which he founded upon leaving the Presidency of Finland in 2000. He is a member of a Consultative Group on the Past seeking a consensus in Northern Ireland. He is Co-Chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations. He is a member of the board of the New York-based East West Institute and a member of the board of trustees of Inter Press Service International Association.

He has been Governor for Finland in the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as the International Fund for Agricultural Development. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Finnish Industrialization Fund for developing countries.

As a global airline, Delta knows the importance of intercultural understanding to the well-being of all the world's people, not only for national economies but also for peace. The Delta Prize for Global Understanding gives us an opportunity to join the University of Georgia in recognizing such great world leaders as President Martti Ahtisaari.

Beth Johnston

Senior Vice President of Human Resources
Delta Air Lines



President Martti Ahtisaari delivers his acceptance speech for the Delta Prize on April 3, 2008 in Athens.

Involvement of Non-governmental Actors in Peacemaking: The Example of Aceh

(Acceptance Speech)

Let me first of all thank the University of Georgia and Delta Airlines for the great honor of the Delta Prize for Global Understanding. I am very privileged to be included among the prestigious awardees.

I value the role of both the research community and the private sector in conflict resolution and post-conflict rebuilding. Academic institutions and think tanks can generate high-quality and policy relevant analysis on the root causes of crises and develop innovative frameworks for overcoming broader instability. They can also gather and distribute information and expertise within the existing field operations in crisis management.

I strongly believe that dialogue and coordination between governmental and private sectors is beneficial for peace building efforts. The international community can benefit from the private sector's innovative energies, their solution-oriented experiences, and the modern technologies that are available to them.

My intention today is to talk about the different actors in peacemaking, especially the role of non-governmental, non-official diplomacy, and to highlight the benefit of taking a multi-track approach to peacemaking. I will start with describing the negotiation process for the Aceh peace agreement, which was signed in August 2005 between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement. I find this process an excellent example of a multi-track approach.

First, a couple of words about Crisis Management Initiative, a Finnish peace-building NGO that I founded after I retired from the presidency in 2000, and under whose auspices we conducted the Aceh negotiation process. The aim of Crisis Management Initiative—CMI—is to strengthen the capacity and professionalism of international actors in conflict resolution and management and to mount private diplomacy operations. CMI seeks effective and legitimate entry points based on both needs in the field and current security and conflict trends. Our work is carried out through analysis, action, advocacy, and partnerships at every level, from grassroots community to governments.

In addition to following the situation in Aceh and being prepared to arbitrate should a dispute arise in the peace implementation process, we at CMI are working in the Black Sea region, Burma/Myanmar, and Liberia with issues ranging from building civil administration in post-conflict countries to evaluating the impact of civilian crisis management operations. In all of its activities and projects CMI builds on its wide networks, which makes it possible for even a small organization to have a major impact, as in the Aceh peace process.

I had the privilege of being involved in the Aceh peace negotiations in 2005. The parties of the conflict—that is, the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement—requested my assistance in facilitating peace talks to end the thirty-year war in the Aceh province. I accepted the task, knowing that I would have the full support of staff, Board, and members of Crisis Management Initiative.

As many of you know, we witnessed an historic event in August 2005 when the two parties signed the peace agreement in Helsinki. It would not have been possible without an organization like CMI to provide a framework for the negotiations. As a civil-society organization, CMI had the flexibility to act fast and to collaborate with a large variety of stakeholders, including governments, regional organizations, the military, civil society, and donors, to mention a few. This collaboration made it possible to establish an external monitoring mission in Aceh, supported by the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and provided with a clear mandate to ensure that the peace agreement's clauses would be fulfilled.

Our efforts would not have been possible without a solid backing for this process from the international community. The EU and the five participating ASEAN countries put their full political weight behind the implementation of the peace agreement. Once a peace agreement was reached, it was crucial to be able to deploy quickly. The Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) filled a potentially harmful vacuum through its one-month Initial Monitoring Presence phase. The mission gained the confidence of both parties and civil society and acted in a neutral and transparent manner.

After the trust building negotiations, the Aceh Monitoring Mission in place, and the international media focusing on post-tsunami Aceh, the parties felt confident that each one of them would hold on to their commitments. The progress has been remarkable, and the will for peace remains very strong today, two and a half years after the agreement.

CMI has collaborated with the local civil society in Aceh, including academia, media, NGOs, businesses and think tanks. I believe that civil society can have a major influence on making peace long-lasting and the principles of a peaceful society permanent. The civil society actually had already played a pivotal role during the years of the conflict. Local NGOs were actively searching for possible ways to bring peace to Aceh in spite of the fact that conditions were very difficult. Although the conflict was a great tragedy, it gave rise to a new generation of Acehnese people committed to developing their society in a peaceful direction.

The local civil society is well networked within the Aceh province. During the conflict many organizations established posts in the countryside to offer humanitarian assistance, to train internally displaced people to rebuild their economic livelihoods, and to provide health facilities and educational systems to replace those that had been destroyed. The civil society has promoted collective and democratic decision-making in villages, and has paid special attention to the underrepresented, especially women and children. These networks now serve well to train people in peace and in acting in a democratic, peace-oriented society.

I was very pleased to learn that there are many efficient professional women's organizations and networks that have assisted development, especially in the countryside. Women's networks have been engines for social change for years. Women's involvement is essential for implementing democracy. In my experience women's involvement also promotes finding solutions faster. Women tend to be pragmatic and future-oriented in their aims.

The essence of peacemaking is to create an environment in which negotiations to resolve a conflict can begin. It is important to recognize that peacemaking can take place only when all parties of a dispute have a genuine desire to avoid further violence. Political negotiations alone will not resolve conflicts. Effective peacemaking often requires coordination with peacekeeping forces and international organizations involved in peace-building programs. The pursuit of a peaceful settlement should be a long-term strategic commitment.

The Aceh peace agreement would not have been possible without the combined efforts of many different actors: the European Union and ASEAN, several supporting governments, local civil society, research organizations, and international NGOs whose expertise CMI has used on several occasions. The official—i.e. Track One—diplomacy, while not in the forefront in the negotiation process, provided invaluable support during the negotiations, and emerged as the leading track during the peace implementation phase.

Track One diplomacy can offer mediation, negotiations, conciliation, good offices, information, consultations, and peace conferences. It can produce unilateral good will gestures, conflict prevention centers, special envoys, diplomatic sanctions, and international appeals or condemnations. Track One actors are engaged in crisis and war diplomacy, coercive diplomacy, and diplomatic recognition or withdrawal of recognition. Track One actors range from the United Nations family to regional organizations and governments.

We are all aware of the constraints of the United Nations and of the tendency of the international community to give demanding assignments without providing adequate resources and political support. The UN is, however, the only UN that we have. It has a lot of strengths and a special position in legitimizing the actions of the international community. As a global organization, the UN has the opportunity and the responsibility to work persistently in areas that are not in the spotlight of the international media.

Sometimes, unfortunately, the UN becomes paralyzed, or becomes severely hampered, by the actions of its members. The UN's inability to make necessary decisions in a crisis situation also erodes its position and prestige.

For this and other reasons, regional security organizations that complement and support the UN's capacity are vital. Integration and community building processes have proven their importance in promoting peace and stability in different regions. While the European Union is perhaps the best example of this, I think it is extremely important that not only the European and transatlantic regional organizations be active in peace and security co-operation, but also organizations such as the African Union increase their capacity to act in peacemaking, mediation processes, and peace support operations.

During recent years, the determination of regional organizations to improve their crisis management capacities has been obvious. Security and strategic concerns unite regional organizations' member states and encourage them to pursue other activities in the context of regional collaboration. A shift from multi-lateral and bilateral security policies towards regional approaches has become an increasingly common method of conflict management.

The non-official conflict resolution methods, often labeled as Track Two or Track 1.5 for those organizations that work with a good access to official high-level actors, can also offer mediation, support dispute resolution, organize peace commissions, offer civilian peace monitors, arrange visits by eminent organizations or individuals, arrange non-violent campaigns or "friends groups," and facilitate problem-solving workshops, civilian fact-finding missions, and private, humanitarian diplomacy.

Why do warring parties turn to Track Two actors for mediation assistance? In the mediation of internal conflicts, the principle of sovereignty is at stake. Governments of war-torn societies are often reluctant to "internationalize" their internal disputes and conflicts.

This means, for example, that governments consider the involvement of the United Nations in conflict resolution or crisis management of internal disputes cautiously and critically. Private diplomacy employs a variety of methodologies and techniques, and it usually works best when it is able to engage rapidly in multi-track cooperation.

My experience is that a combined effort of different actors in different tracks often yields the best results. A good conflict resolution strategy has to be multileveled and needs to include the official process of mediation; the possible quasi-official processes promoted by unofficial groups; public peace processes aimed at sustained dialogue; and the various activities of civil society. At its best, a multi-track conflict resolution strategy gains entry at different stages, opens new avenues for dialogue, creates leverage and shares costs and risks.

In a peace process there are various roles to be played that the mediator cannot alone fulfill. These include gathering and analyzing information on the conflict, the parties, influential third parties, potential spoilers, etc.; pressuring and persuading the parties to take the necessary steps in the talks; coaching and advising the parties in negotiation strategies; maintaining a dialogue within the local civil society and communicating messages to the negotiation table; planning and preparing for the peace implementation phase; providing support for rebuilding; and assisting as peacekeepers, monitors or civilian crisis managers during the post-conflict phase.

This kind of a multi-track, multi-actor process is often not easy to handle, since there obviously can be no direct chains of command, and the coordination of the actors can be difficult and necessarily kept secret. So in order to work as a wide and inclusive strategic alliance of peace-builders, we need to learn to trust one another, share our working practices and methodologies, and plan our operations together. In such evolving collaboration we need to place the needs of the local people and organizations, directly affected by conflict, to the forefront of our deliberations and planning.

I thank you.

Martti Ahtisaari

Recipient of the 2008 Delta Prize for Global Understanding

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1999

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2000

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2001

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev

2002

Mrs. Sadako Ogata

2004

President Václav Havel

2005

Ambassador Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella

2006

Mr. Ted Turner

2007

President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

2008

President Martti Ahtisaari

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for Global Understanding

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