



JENNIFER ALLEN SIMONS, PH.D., LL.D.
PRESIDENT

U.N. DIPLOMAT VISITS VANCOUVER TO RECEIVE THE SIMONS FOUNDATION'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

**For Immediate Release
News desks/Features editor
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VANCOUVER, Canada – The distinguished U.N. and Sri Lankan diplomat, Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, will be honoured in Vancouver on April 11, 2008 as recipient of The Simons Foundation Award for Distinguished Global Leadership in the Service of Peace and Disarmament.

Mr. Dhanapala is the former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and was one of the final candidates in the recent U.N. elections for Secretary-General. Mr. Dhanapala is an internationally recognized expert with a wealth of knowledge about 'hot button' issues including: international human security, the militarization of the Arctic, climate change, nuclear non-proliferation, land-mine control, weapons of mass destruction, the role of the UN, and more (www.jayanthadhanapala.com).

As a major U.N. figure over the past 40 years, Mr. Dhanapala has a unique insider's view into the role of the U.N. and the current issues facing this influential international body. He currently chairs the U.N. University Council, is President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, and is a member of the governing board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Mr. Dhanapala has a distinguished career as a national and international diplomat, peace-builder, and disarmament expert and is an articulate champion of non-discriminatory global norms, the rule of law, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Mr. Dhanapala is currently the Simons Visiting Chair in International Law and Human Security at the School for International Studies, SFU.

THE SIMONS FOUNDATION

Led by Dr. Jennifer Allen Simons, an award-winning educator, policy advisor and philanthropist, The Simons Foundation is a Vancouver-based private charitable foundation that has worked behind the scenes on most of the major international peace initiatives of our day – providing critical financial support, convening international leaders in policy dialogue, and driving academic research. The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine, nuclear weapons disarmament and non-proliferation issues are just a few of the international initiatives that have benefited from The Simons Foundation's strategic philanthropic approach. The Simons Foundation has demonstrated that with a clear mission focused on nuclear disarmament, international law and human security, a well-connected and educated leadership and a strong financial base it is possible for a small organization to have a significant global impact.

Media enquiries, to arrange interviews with Mr. Dhanapala, further information, and press passes to the awards ceremony contact:
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