

FORMER UN OFFICIAL NAMED TO SIMONS VISITING CHAIR IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN SECURITY

Simon Fraser University's School for International Studies will this month welcome former Sri Lankan ambassador to the U.S. and former UN Under Secretary-General for Disarmament Jayantha Dhanapala as the first Simons Visiting Chair in International Law and Human Security.

The chair, recently endowed by the Simons Foundation, will help advance the complex debate around issues related to globalization, human rights, economic development and international security. During his tenure of the chair in the Spring Semester, Dhanapala will teach an undergraduate course on disarmament in international affairs, and give a number of public lectures.

"It is a great honour that Jayantha Dhanapala has chosen to bring his tremendous experience and outstanding reputation to Simon Fraser University" says John Harriss, director of the School for International Studies.

During his distinguished career in Sri Lanka's diplomatic service, Dhanapala served in New York as chair of the global review of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. His skilful handling of those delicate negotiations caught the attention of then-Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, who subsequently selected Dhanapala to re-establish the Department of Disarmament after the UN reforms of 1997.

According to Canadian diplomat Newton Bowles, in his memoir *Diplomacy of Hope*, Dhanapala "left a legacy of intellectual rigor and moral commitment as the Under Secretary General for Disarmament in 1998-2003."

Once a potential successor to Kofi Annan, Dhanapala has more recently devoted his time to the peace process in his home country. In October 2007, Jayantha Dhanapala was elected President of the influential Pugwash Conferences on Science and International Affairs. He was also awarded the Sean MacBride Peace Prize by the Nobel Peace Prize winning International Peace Bureau in 2007.