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## Former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari to Deliver Fourteenth U Thant Distinguished Lecture

**Event:** Fourteenth U Thant Distinguished Lecture  
**Theme:** “Negotiating Peace in Asia, Africa and Europe”  
**Speaker:** Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland  
**Date/Time:** 26 May 2008 (Monday), 15:30–17:20  
**Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, UN University Headquarters, Tokyo  
**Organizers:** United Nations University, UNU Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Science Council of Japan

Martti Ahtisaari was President of Finland from 1994 to 2000. Over a long and distinguished career he has made numerous vital contributions to international peace and security, from facilitating the peace process between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement to his recent role as UN Special Envoy for the Kosovo Status Process.

Mr. Ahtisaari will deliver the fourteenth U Thant Distinguished Lecture at UNU Headquarters, Tokyo, on Monday, 26 May. His lecture, entitled “Negotiating Peace in Africa, Asia and Europe”, will draw upon his extensive experience to highlight our shared responsibility to help and protect our fellow human beings.

Noriyuki Wakisaka, Editorial Writer for the Asahi Shimbun, will introduce the lecture and opening remarks will be provided by Konrad Osterwalder, Rector of UNU, and Kotaro Suzumura, Vice-President, Science Council of Japan. Following Mr. Ahtisaari’s lecture, comments will be provided by Åge B. Grutle, Norwegian Ambassador to Japan, and Sukehiro Hasegawa, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Timor-Leste and Visiting Professor at UNU. The event will conclude with an open question-and-answer session.

We cordially invite you to join us for what will be an insightful look into the world of peace negotiations from one of the most highly-respected practitioners in the field.

For more information, or to reserve a space, media representatives may contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03–5467–1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)).

### Background

U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1961 to 1971, originally proposed the establishment of a United Nations University that would be devoted to researching pressing global issues and promoting international understanding both at the political and cultural levels. As a result of his vision, the UNU was established in Tokyo.

The UNU has a tradition of inviting world leaders and renowned individuals to Tokyo to explore the role of the United Nations in a rapidly changing world. The U Thant Distinguished Lecture Series builds on this tradition by providing a forum through which eminent thinkers and world leaders speak on the role of the United Nations in addressing the challenges facing the world's peoples and nations in the twenty-first century. The lecture series is co-organized by the UNU Centre, the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and the Science Council of Japan.

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