

Press Release:



The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
November 1, 2011

Lecture by
Nobel Peace Prize–Laureate & Former President of the Republic of Finland
H.E. President Martti Ahtisaari
“On Peace Mediation—learning from the experiences of
President Ahtisaari,”

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation invites H.E. Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, the former President of the Republic of Finland and the Nobel Peace Prize-laureate in 2008. This will be his first visit to Japan since he won the prize. Mr. Ahtisaari will speak about how the international society could achieve peace in today's world where the nature of conflicts is getting more diverse and complicated.

Mr. Ahtisaari made considerable contribution toward resolving many difficult conflicts. This will be a rare opportunity to listen to the account of his various experiences and achievements in conflict resolution and peace building around the world, including Namibia, Aceh and Kosovo. (Please see the attached program for the details)

Date: November 24, 2011 16:00–18:00

Venue : Hotel Okura, Heian No Ma (2-10-4, Toranomon, Minato-ku)

***Entrance Free of charge, with Japanese–English Simultaneous translation**

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***Moderator: Dr. Toshiya Hoshino, Dean, Osaka School of International Public Policy**
Also in the program, Ms. Tuija Talvitie, Executive Director of Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) will talk about their activities. CMI is a Finnish non-governmental organization established by Mr. Ahtisaari for conflict resolution and peace building.

Mr. Martti Ahtisaari: Born in 1937. Joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1965 and held various positions including Ambassador of Finland to the United Republic of Tanzania, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Namibia. In 1993 he became the head of Social Democratic Party, and in 1994 won the presidential election over Elisabeth Rehn of the Swedish People's Party. He served as the President until 2000 for 6 years. After leaving the office of the President, founded a non-governmental organization, Crisis Management Initiative, where he is the chairman of the board. Between 2000 and 2008, made considerable achievements to resolve conflicts in the world, including, peace process between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement and states for Kosovo, for which he was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2008. His current positions include Co-Chair in the European Council of Foreign Relations, a member of the Board of the East-West Institute and the corporate governing board of Elcoteq SE.

SPF regular project “Peace building in Asia and the role of Japan” : ① carries out invitation programs for experts from abroad for the purpose of increasing understandings and attention toward the issue of peace building within Japan, ② conducts activities to strengthen network among experts of peace building in Asia, ③ supports projects by local organizations in Southern Thailand for conflict resolution and peace building there.

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President Ahtisaari”**

***P r o g r a m ***

16:00-16:15	Welcome speeches
16:15-16:30	“Work of President Ahtisaari and the essence of peace mediation” by Dr. Toshiya Hoshino, Dean, Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University
16:30-16:50	“The activities of Crisis Management Initiative” By Ms. Tuija Talvitie, Executive Director, Crisis Management Initiative (CMI),
16:50-17:10	Lecture by H.E. Ahtisaari, tenth President of the Republic of Finland
17:10-17:25	Coffee Break
17:25-	Question and answer session
18:00	Closing
Moderator:	Dr. Toshiya Hoshino, Dean, Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University
Language:	Japanese/English (with simultaneous translation)