



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization  
Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

**Award Ceremony of the  
Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize  
UNESCO, 2 October 2008**

**Address by Mr Jusuf Kalla  
Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia**

Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO,  
Mr Mário Soares, Vice-President of the Prize  
President Abdou Diouf, Patron of the Prize  
President Henri Konan Bédié, Protector of the Prize  
Madam Teija Tiilikainen, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Finland  
President Martti Ahtisaari,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this important occasion in Paris, a long way from Jakarta, to congratulate and honour our best friend President Ahtisaari. This day is also special as I started my long journey on Idul Fitri evening, the key day for Muslims as is Christmas for Christians.

This acknowledgement is awarded to you for all your great achievements in conflict resolution processes to reach peaceful settlements in many places in the world.

We in Indonesia will never forget this, as you have become part of our history through your role as mediator to end the 30-year-long conflict in Aceh in 2005. It has meant that millions of people's lives have changed from destruction to working together for better life, from a life of fear to life with a smile.

Every human being has the right to peace. This right is universal for all people all over the world to live in peaceful situation, to work hand in hand to achieve welfare and better life for future generations.

Why are there conflicts and no peace in many regions? My experience from various regions in my country has shown that it happens in most cases because of inequality in economic, political, social and religious rights and is also often linked to poverty. Inequality creates instability and anger in people's minds.

To be able to reach peaceful settlements in conflict situations, we need to have understanding and a willingness to make corrections and improvements. We can achieve this by a high level of commitment through compromises which means following the principle of give and take.

To achieve lasting peace, there is also a need to be grounded in the principle of dignity for all, including the leaders and the whole community.

Millions of people are still today living in fear and human suffering because of ongoing conflicts which cause poverty and hunger and destruction. Many young children have become orphans in these conflicts.

We must be united with a new spirit to end these ongoing conflicts. For this we need tireless efforts by wise men, who have skills and leadership to lead conflicting parties to peace. President Ahtisaari, you have all these talents.

World with peace must be our dream and effort.

May God bless you and give you happiness and good health.