Opportunity for Action: The Urgency of Youth Employment
Welcome and Overview: William S. Reese, President and CEO, International Youth Foundation
Discussants:
* John Studzinski, CBE, Senior Managing Director, The Blackstone Group
* Peter Woicke, Former Executive Vice President and CEO, International Finance Corporation

Coffee Break
10:45 Bridging the Opportunity Divide: A Call to Action to Address the Global Youth Employment Challenge
• Fernando Jiménez-Ontiveros, Deputy Managing Director, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank
• Deepali Khanna, Director, Youth Learning, The MasterCard Foundation
• Beth Paige, Mission Director, USAID/Jordan
• Andrea Taylor, Director, North America, Citizenship & Public Affairs, Microsoft Corporation
Moderator: Henrietta Holsman Fore, Former Administrator, USAID

Lunch
12:15 Keynote Address: Why Youth Matter
Introduction: Douglas L. Becker, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Laureate Education, Inc., and Chairman, Board of Directors, International Youth Foundation
Keynote Address: Christopher J. Nassetta, President and CEO, Hilton Worldwide

Providing Solutions: What Companies Are Doing to Employ and Engage Vulnerable Youth
• Patricia Devereux, Group Head, Corporate Philanthropy and Citizenship, MasterCard Worldwide
• Martha Herrera-Gonzalez, Director, Communications and Social Responsibility, CEMEX, Mexico
• William Lane, Washington Director, Caterpillar
• Jane Nelson, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
Moderator: Peter Shiras, Executive Vice President, International Youth Foundation

Coffee Break
3:30 Youth Voices: Creating Educational, Economic, and Civic Opportunities
• Monica Amoding, Member of Parliament, and Chairperson, Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs, Uganda
• Pedro Amorim, Assistant Food and Beverage Manager, Hilton Hotels and Resorts, Orlando, U.S.
• Dina Buchbinder, Founder and CEO, Deport-es para Compartir (Sports to Share), Mexico
• Naadiya Moosajee, Co-Founder, South Africa Women in Engineering, South Africa
Moderator: Nick Martin, President, TechChange, Washington, DC

Closing Remarks: William S. Reese
5:45 Reception and Presentation of the President Martti Ahtisaari Peacebuilder Award
Introduction: Douglas L. Becker
Remarks by Awardee: Dr. Rama Shyam, Co-founder and Director, Society for Awareness, Harmony, and Equal Rights (SAHER), India

7:00 Close

* See post-press changes on pg 17
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the International Youth Foundation’s Youth@Work: Bridging the Opportunity Divide conference. This important conversation on how to improve the lives and prospects of today’s young people comes at a critical time.

Over the past year, millions of the world’s youth gave voice to their deepest frustrations, demanding opportunities for a better education, for decent employment, and a voice in shaping their futures. A few months ago, at a youth forum in Tunisia, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton underscored the enormous urgency to respond. “The needs and concerns of young people have been marginalized too long,” she said, adding: “We not only need to think differently, we need to think big, because if we don’t, we will miss this moment in history.”

In fact, today, governments, companies, and civil society organizations are increasingly mobilizing resources to support youth development at unprecedented levels. Yet as a recently released IYF publication so powerfully reminds us, much remains to be done. Opportunity for Action: Preparing Youth for 21st Century Livelihoods reviews the current state of youth employment and livelihoods in six regions of the world, and concludes with an urgent call to action to address these challenges through a “collective, massive, and global” response. Today’s conference is one answer to that call — as we come together to better understand the barriers still facing today’s youth and to explore new ways to work together to scale proven practice programs.

To spark this critical dialogue, we have enlisted a group of distinguished speakers and panelists who will provoke, inspire, and challenge us to think big — and creatively — about the solutions needed to close the opportunity divide. Corporate executives will share what their companies are doing to better train, educate, and employ young people in the communities in which they operate. A panel of young people will offer their perspectives on this global youth agenda — and share their first-hand experiences to make a difference in their own communities. Experts from USAID, the Inter-American Development Bank, Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, among others, will help lead the discussion on how to work more effectively in partnership to impact youth employment issues.

I wish to acknowledge the Caterpillar Foundation, Hilton Worldwide, MasterCard Worldwide, Microsoft, and USAID for their generous support of this conference. They represent the remarkable leaders in every sector who are answering the call to action on behalf of today’s youth.

William S. Reese
President and CEO
International Youth Foundation
OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTION: THE URGENCY OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The magnitude of the global youth employment challenge cannot be over-stated. The combination of the demographic youth bulge, unprecedented levels of youth unemployment, and widespread youth activism during and since the Arab Spring highlights the importance of focusing attention on youth issues in ways that reflect the urgency of the task before us. This Opening Plenary will set the stage for the day’s discussions, with its focus on both the nature of the challenge and what is being done — and what more needs to be done — to bridge the opportunity divide for youth worldwide.

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

William S. Reese, President and CEO, International Youth Foundation

DISCUSSANTS

* John Studzinski, CBE, Senior Managing Director, The Blackstone Group

Peter Woicke, Former Executive Vice President and CEO, International Finance Corporation

* John Studzinski runs the Blackstone Advisory Partners, serves as a Senior Managing Director of the Blackstone Group, and is a member of the Executive Committee of the firm, which he joined in 2006. He began his banking career in 1980 at Morgan Stanley and later moved to London. Mr. Studzinski, who is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, serves on numerous boards, including the International Youth Foundation, Human Rights Watch, Bowdoin College, FAPE, and the American Patrons of Tate. In 2001, he founded the Genesis Foundation — his personal foundation that supports young and emerging artists. His awards include the Prince of Wales Ambassador Award.

Peter Woicke is a former Managing Director of the World Bank and CEO of the International Finance Corporation. Before that, he held top positions at JP Morgan for nearly three decades. Previously a Board Chair of the International Save the Children Alliance, Mr. Woicke is currently the Chair of the Ashesi University Foundation and a board member of the International Youth Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the Institute of Human Rights and Business. He also serves as a non-Executive Director of the boards of the AngloAmerican plc and Saudi Aramco. Mr. Woicke received his MBA in Business at the University of Saarbruecken in Germany.
Building on the global “Call to Action” from IYF’s *Opportunity for Action: Preparing Youth for 21st Century Livelihoods* paper, this panel will dig deeper into what needs to be done on a broad scale to improve the employability prospects of today’s youth. Top government, business, and foundation representatives will outline what they believe are the greatest barriers facing youth in their particular sector or region of the world, and identify solutions and next steps that they and others are taking to significantly expand employment and other opportunities among the world’s vulnerable youth.

**MODERATOR**

**Henrietta Holsman Fore**, Former Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Ms. Fore served as Administrator of USAID and Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance from 2007 to 2009. Previously, she was Under Secretary of State for Management in the U.S. Department of State and Director of the United States Mint at Treasury. She is currently Chair of the Board and CEO of Holsman International and on the Board of Therevance, Inc. (THRX) and Diagnostics for All. Ms. Fore also holds leadership positions at Women-CorporateDirectors, the Asia Society, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, among others. A graduate of Wellesley College, she has a Masters of Science degree from University of Northern Colorado.

**PANELISTS**

**Fernando Jiménez-Ontiveros**, Deputy Managing Director, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank

**Deepali Khanna**, Director, Youth Learning, The MasterCard Foundation

**Beth Paige**, Mission Director, USAID/Jordan

**Andrea Taylor**, Director, North America, Citizenship & Public Affairs, Microsoft Corporation
**Beth Paige**, a Senior Foreign Service Officer with over 20 years of experience at USAID, was appointed Mission Director for USAID/Jordan in 2011. Previously, she served as the Provincial Director of USAID’s new Provincial Office in Lahore, Pakistan. From 2009–2010 Ms. Paige represented USAID at the U.S. Army War College, serving as USAID Senior Advisor to the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute and Professor for International Development. Her overseas tours include Nepal, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Kenya, Mali and Egypt. Ms. Paige received her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Southern Illinois University and completed post-graduate coursework at George Washington University and Florida Institute of Technology.

**Deepali Khanna** is the Director of Youth Learning with The MasterCard Foundation. Ms. Khanna has 25 years of experience in planning and executing successful youth empowerment and education programs. Before joining the Foundation, she was Plan International’s Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, where she managed Plan’s programming in twelve countries. She led the process of organizational change in the region, including the establishment of key partnerships with national governments and the development of a gender equality strategy. She received her Masters degree in Social Work and her Bachelors in Sociology from Delhi University.

**Fernando Jiménez-Ontiveros** joined the Inter-American Development Bank as Programming Unit Chief in 1999, and was later promoted to Deputy Manager for Development Effectiveness. After acting as IDB’s General Manager in 2009, he was appointed Deputy Manager for Operations. An economist by training, he joined the Spanish Ministry of Economy in 1984, and later served as Economic and Commercial Attaché for Central America and Panama. In 1991 he was appointed Principal Advisor on international economics at the Office of the President. Mr. Jiménez-Ontiveros also served as Economic and Commercial Attaché of the Spanish Embassy in Mexico.

**Andrea Taylor** is Director, North America, Citizenship & Public Affairs for Microsoft Corporation, working closely with nonprofit organizations, governments and Microsoft business partners in the U.S. and Canada. Microsoft Citizenship serves communities globally by investing in opportunities for youth to advance education, skills training, and workforce development; fostering employee engagement; and making software donations. Ms. Taylor is a trustee of her alma mater, Boston University, as well as Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, New York Public Radio and the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS: WHY YOUTH MATTER

INTRODUCTION

Douglas L. Becker, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Laureate Education, Inc., and Chairman, Board of Directors, International Youth Foundation

Mr. Becker is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Laureate Education, Inc., the world’s leading operator of international universities. A pioneer in the field of education, he served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Sylvan Learning Systems, Inc. from 1991 until 2003. Mr. Becker is the President of the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Sylvan and Laureate which he established in 1997. He is the Chairman of the International Youth Foundation, and Founding Chairman of Port Discovery Children’s Museum in Baltimore, where he still serves as a director. Previously, Mr. Becker served on such non-profit Boards as: the Baltimore Museum of Art, Greater Baltimore Committee, Economic Alliance of Baltimore, Enoch Pratt Library, Gilman School, University of Maryland Foundation, and FIRST — an international robotics competition.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Christopher J. Nassetta, President and CEO, Hilton Worldwide

Mr. Nassetta is President and CEO for Hilton Worldwide. He joined the company in 2007. Previously, Mr. Nassetta was President and CEO of Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc., a position he held since 2000. Mr. Nassetta co-founded Bailey Capital Corporation in 1991, where he was responsible for the operations of the real estate investment and advisory firm. He spent seven years at The Oliver Carr Company, ultimately serving as Chief Development Officer. In this role, he was responsible for all development and related activities for one of the largest commercial real estate companies in the mid-Atlantic region.

Mr. Nassetta serves on numerous boards and organizations, including: World Travel & Tourism Council; CoStar Group, Inc.; The Real Estate Roundtable; Federal City Council; Arlington Free Clinic; the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and the International Youth Foundation. Mr. Nassetta graduated from the University of Virginia McIntire School of Commerce with a degree in finance and serves on its Advisory Board.
PROVIDING SOLUTIONS: WHAT COMPANIES ARE DOING TO EMPLOY AND ENGAGE VULNERABLE YOUTH

Moving from the general to the specific, this session will explore some of the different ways that global companies are currently planning to “answer the call” to improve employment and entrepreneurship prospects among today’s young people. Among the topics to be explored: Why are more and more companies placing youth as a focal point for their CSR initiatives? What are the potential “growth” areas for job creation in their particular industries? Panelists from the business sector will also offer their views on the value of working in partnership with governments and civil society organizations to gain greater impact.

MODERATOR

Peter Shiras, Executive Vice President, International Youth Foundation

Mr. Shiras joined the International Youth Foundation in September 2005 as the Vice President for Employability. He was appointed to Executive Vice President in January 2008. Mr. Shiras has extensive international experience in Latin America and Africa, where he directed humanitarian and development programs during his 13-year tenure at Catholic Relief Services. He lived and worked in Central America from 1981–1985, and in Kenya from 1987–1990. He also worked for eleven years in Washington, DC with InterAction and INDEPENDENT SECTOR. Mr. Shiras has served on the Global Philanthropy Advisory Committee of the Council of Foundations and the board of Casa de Maryland. He is a graduate of Cornell University, with Masters and Bachelors of Science degrees in Agricultural Economics. He has lived in Greece, Turkey and Israel and speaks fluent Spanish.

PANELISTS

Patricia Devereux, Group Head, Corporate Philanthropy and Citizenship, MasterCard Worldwide

Martha Herrera-Gonzalez, Director, Communications and Social Responsibility, CEMEX, Mexico

William Lane, Washington Director, Caterpillar

Jane Nelson, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
**Patricia Devereux** is Group Head, Corporate Philanthropy and Citizenship for MasterCard Worldwide. In this role, she manages and directs the company’s corporate philanthropy group which includes developing and implementing the company’s philanthropy strategy globally and overseeing strategic partnerships with global and national charitable organizations, employee volunteerism, matching gift programs and disaster relief efforts. Ms. Devereux is also the MasterCard staff liaison to The MasterCard Foundation, working with the Foundation’s board and staff to support a long-term, collaborative relationship between the two organizations.

**Martha Herrera-Gonzalez** is Director of Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility for CEMEX and CEMEX-Tecnológico de Monterrey Center for Sustainable Development. An expert on social responsibility and sustainable development, she has been with CEMEX for 16 years. She serves on a number of executive boards, including UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum, Urban Age Institute, AXTEL Foundation, SumaRSE, and Grupo de trabajo Urbanismo del Sector Privado. She graduated from International Studies at University of Monterrey (UDEM), and has a Masters in Political Science from McGill in Montreal, as well as a Masters in Business Administration.

**William Lane** is Washington Director of Caterpillar, where he has worked since 1975. A leading business advocate for free trade and global engagement, he is a chairman of the U.S. Latin America Trade Coalition and co-president of the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign. In 2005, he was appointed to the HELP Commission, a presidential committee examining the effectiveness of U.S. foreign aid. Mr. Lane has also served on the German Marshall Fund Task Force on Development and the Peace Corps Review Team. An Adjunct Professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, he received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Penn State.

**Jane Nelson** is Director of the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a senior associate of the Programme for Sustainability Leadership at Cambridge University. She has co-authored four books and over 70 publications on the role of business in society and five of the World Economic Forum’s Global Corporate Citizenship reports. Ms. Nelson serves on numerous boards and advisory councils including Newmont Mining Corp, FSG, the World Environment Center, the ImagineNations Group, Clinton Global Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center, Initiative for Global Development, APCO, ExxonMobil, and GE.
YOUTH VOICES: CREATING EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC, AND CIVIC OPPORTUNITIES

This session will draw on the wide range of perspectives and experiences of five young people from around the world who will offer their responses to the discussions that have taken place over the course of the day. What important issues do they think were ignored or brushed over? What issues do they believe should be at the top of the global youth agenda? And what do they think young people can do, as grass-roots organizers, young professionals, teachers, elected officials, or simply engaged citizens, to expand opportunities in their communities? Panelists will also offer their ideas on how young people can most effectively and creatively work with government, the private sector and civil society to realize their goals.

MODERATOR

Nick Martin, President, TechChange

Mr. Martin is co-founder and President of TechChange, an institute in Washington, DC that trains leaders to leverage emerging technologies for social change. Before launching TechChange, he founded a digital media and conflict transformation program called DCPEACE. Mr. Martin is an adjunct faculty member at American University, George Mason University, George Washington University and the United Nations University for Peace. He is a recipient of IYF’s 2009 YouthActionNet® Global Fellowship and a Washington, DC Humanities Council Scholar.

PANELISTS

*Monicah Amoding, Member of Parliament, and Chairperson, Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs, Uganda

Pedro Amorim, Assistant Food and Beverage Manager, Hilton Hotels and Resorts, Orlando, Florida, USA

Dina Buchbinder, Founder and CEO, Deport-es para Compartir (Sports to Share), Mexico, and 2009 IYF Global YouthActionNet® Fellow

Naadiya Moosajee, Co-Founder, South Africa Women in Engineering, South Africa, and Member, Board of Directors, International Youth Foundation
Pedro Amorim is the Assistant Food and Beverage Manager at the Hilton Orlando, Florida. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he began to pursue a career in hospitality after attending college. Mr. Amorim joined Hilton Worldwide in 2009 as a Restaurant Supervisor at the Hilton Convention Center in Branson, Missouri, where he was selected as the 2010 Team Member of the Year. In addition to his supervisory role, he was also named the Chairperson of the hotel’s Blue Energy Committee, leading the property’s initiatives impacting the local community. In this role, Mr. Amorim has worked closely with Project Graduate, Project Backpack and the Branson Women’s Shelter.

Dina Buchbinder co-founded in 2007 Deportes para Compartir (DpC) — an educational program that teaches children and their communities to become better citizens through games and sporting activities. In 2009, she was a recipient of the IYF’s YouthActionNet® Global Fellowship and in 2010 won the Universidad del Valle de México (UVM) Award for Social Development. In 2011 she was selected as an Ashoka Fellow and became a member of the WFUNA Youth Advisory Group. This year Ms. Buchbinder was named a Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum and a Cordes Fellow for Opportunity Collaboration.

Naadiya Moosajee is the co-founder of South African Women in Engineering, an organization that promotes the development and advancement of women in the field. A Fellow of the African Leadership Network, she has received numerous awards, including the Top 100 Brightest Young Minds in South Africa, IYF’s YouthActionNet® Global Fellowship, and the University of Cape Town’s Engineering Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award. She is currently working as a consultant focused on public transportation, climate change and natural resources. Ms. Moosajee, who is a member of the IYF Board of Directors, received her Masters degree in Civil Engineering, University of Cape Town.
Caterpillar Inc. supports the philanthropic efforts of the Caterpillar Foundation. Founded in 1952, the Caterpillar Foundation has contributed more than $500 million to help make sustainable progress possible around the world by providing program support in the areas of environmental sustainability, access to education and basic human needs. (www.caterpillar.com/foundation) To address the challenges young people face when entering the labor force or starting their own business, IYF and Caterpillar Foundation have launched EquipYouth, a program to provide 8,000 young people worldwide with market-relevant job and life skills training along with internships, on-the-job training and employment placement services. The program will benefit youth in Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Russia, Singapore, and South Africa.

Hilton Worldwide is the leading global hospitality company, offering business and leisure travelers the finest in accommodations, service, amenities and value. Its brands are comprised of more than 3,800 hotels and timeshare properties, with 630,000 rooms in 88 countries and include Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, Conrad Hotels & Resorts, Hilton Hotels & Resorts, DoubleTree by Hilton, Embassy Suites Hotels, Hilton Garden Inn, Hampton Hotels, Homewood Suites by Hilton, Home2 Suites by Hilton and Hilton Grand Vacations. (www.hiltonworldwide.com) In 2012, IYF and Hilton Worldwide announced a new partnership to expand Hilton Worldwide’s commitment to Travel with Purpose — creating opportunities for global youth by providing them with first-hand access to education, training and career paths within the hospitality industry.

MasterCard philanthropic efforts are focused on furthering financial inclusion through entrepreneurship. MasterCard supports a variety of organizations and programs that help create and sustain entrepreneurs around the world, through entrepreneurship education and economic empowerment initiatives. Through these partnerships, MasterCard trains the next generation of entrepreneurs through business and financial literacy programs and work to create new businesses while helping existing small businesses thrive and grow. (www.mastercardfnd.org) In India, MasterCard and IYF are working together to implement Young Entrepreneurs, a two-year initiative to increase support for youth entrepreneurship.
Microsoft’s Corporate Citizenship mission is to help people and businesses throughout the world realize their full potential. This drives its business and guides its Corporate Citizenship work. Microsoft is committed to serving communities and working responsibly. Through its partnerships, technology innovations, people and resources Microsoft is proud to help solve societal challenges and create economic opportunities on both a global and a local scale. (www.microsoft.com) In Sub-Saharan Africa, Microsoft and IYF work together to train disadvantaged youth in ICT, life skills, and entrepreneurship. Microsoft recently commissioned IYF to produce Opportunity for Action: Preparing Youth for 21st Century Livelihoods to raise awareness of the youth opportunity divide, and also supported the recent development of Build Your Business, a learning guide for young entrepreneurs.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. (www.usaid.gov) In 2008, through its GDA Leader with Associates award, IYF and USAID launched Youth:Work, a comprehensive employment and entrepreneurship effort to benefit young people. The initiative enables USAID bureaus and missions to easily access IYF’s proven youth employability programs, services, and expertise. Youth:Work programs are now active in 16 countries, providing youth with access to vocational, technical, and life skills training; job-placement services; entrepreneurship training; and support for job creation through start-up and small and medium youth-led enterprises.

The International Youth Foundation invests in the extraordinary potential of young people. Founded in 1990, IYF builds and maintains a worldwide community of businesses, governments, and civil-society organizations committed to empowering youth to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens. IYF programs are catalysts of change that help young people obtain a quality education, gain employability skills, make healthy choices, and improve their communities. To learn more, visit www.iyfnet.org
*POST-PRESS CHANGES*

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTION: THE URGENCY OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

**DISCUSSANT** *(taking the place of John Studzinski)*

**Henrietta Holsman Fore**, Former Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Ms. Fore served as Administrator of USAID and Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance from 2007 to 2009. Previously, she was Under Secretary of State for Management in the U.S. Department of State and Director of the United States Mint at Treasury. She is currently Chair of the Board and CEO of Holsman International and on the Board of Theravance, Inc. (THRX) and Diagnostics for All. Ms. Fore also holds leadership positions at Women-CorporateDirectors, the Asia Society, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, among others. A graduate of Wellesley College, she has a Masters of Science degree from University of Northern Colorado.

**YOUTH VOICES: CREATING EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC, AND CIVIC OPPORTUNITIES**

**PANELIST** *(taking the place of Monicah Amoding)*

**Tania Matsinhe**, Nkaringana Centre of Excellence, Mozambique

Tania Matsinhe has worked across the public, private, and civil society sectors for almost 10 years. She has served as an advisor to Mozambique’s Minister of Planning and Development and is currently a member of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications task force. She has lectured at the University of Eduardo Mondlane; provided consultation to aid agencies; served as a Senior Manager at Ernst & Young South Africa; and currently sits on the Board of 1 Time Holdings Pty (Ltd). Ms. Matsinhe is also the founder of a Mozambican entrepreneurial incubator which seeks to develop human capital and mentor young entrepreneurs. She holds a Masters Degree in Commerce and an MBA from the Graduate School of Business of the University of Cape Town. She is also a South African Qualified Occupation, Training and Development Practice specialist.
THE MARTTI AHTISAARI

PEACEBUILDER AWARD

Presenting the 2012 Martti Ahtisaari Peacebuilder Award recipient

Dr. Rama Shyam
Co-founder and Director
Society for Awareness, Harmony, and Equal Rights (SAHER)
Mumbai, India

Dr. Shyam co-founded SAHER in 2004 at the age of 24 to combat ongoing alienation, polarization, and violence among Muslim and Hindu youth. In 2007, she was recognized as an IYF YouthActionNet® Fellow for her innovative approach to addressing the root causes of violence and hatred in her community. One of the few youth-led organizations working on youth issues through the lens of interfaith cooperation, SAHER reaches over 400 Indian youth annually, with another 2,000 benefiting from its outreach activities. Dr. Shyam received her PhD in Social Sciences from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

The International Youth Foundation established the Martti Ahtisaari Peacebuilder Award in 2010 to honor the Nobel Laureate's distinguished career in public service and in promoting peace and development worldwide. Dr. Shyam is the first recipient of the Award, which will be presented every two years to recognize a young leader who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the field of peacebuilding.