

## BIOGRAPHY OF MR. JAYANTHA DHANAPALA

Jayantha Dhanapala, a Sri Lankan, is currently the *Senior Adviser* to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka. Dhanapala was invited to manage the peace process by the Government of Sri Lanka in mid-2004 after a distinguished career as a national and international diplomat, peace-builder, disarmament expert and articulate champion of non-discriminatory global norms, the rule of law, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and general concerns of developing countries in the collective interest of the international community. He functioned as Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) till the end of November 2005 when he relinquished duties to devote more time to bid for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Further to his duties in Sri Lanka, Dhanapala continues to be active internationally through his membership of several international groups such as the *International Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission; the Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), International Advisory Group of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); United Nations University Council; the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces; Advisory Council of the Stanford Institute for International Studies; International Board of the Bonn International Center for Conversion ; International Advisory Board of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies; and as Honorary President of the International Peace Bureau.*

Dhanapala has had a distinguished career spanning the private sector, government, the United Nations and academia from 1962-2004 interacting with different levels of society including Heads of State and Government and a wide diversity of nationalities. Following a stint in the private sector in Sri Lanka, he ranked first in seeking entry into the *Sri Lankan Foreign Service* in 1965 and served thereafter in diplomatic postings in London, Beijing, Washington D.C., New Delhi and Geneva culminating in Ambassadorial appointments in Geneva (1984-87) accredited to the UN and in Washington D.C. (1995-97). During his diplomatic career he engaged pro-actively and innovatively in political, disarmament, economic, trade, human rights and cultural matters in both bilateral and multilateral contexts. He represented Sri Lanka and chaired groups in Non-aligned Movement and SAARC Conferences, Commonwealth meetings, Conference on Disarmament and disarmament treaty related meetings, UNCTAD, Commission on Human Rights and other human rights bodies, ILO, WHO, WIPO, WMO etc. Dhanapala was widely acclaimed for his Presidency of the 1995 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference, a landmark event in disarmament history, because of his crafting of a package of decisions balancing the twin objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and the concerns of the nuclear weapon states and the non-nuclear weapon states which was adopted without a vote. He was later invited by the *Government of Australia* to serve as a member of the Canberra Commission together with a Group of 17 eminent international personalities publishing an influential report on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in 1996.

Schooled and experienced in corporate management, Dhanapala integrated these skills and experiences into successful governmental, diplomatic mission and international organization administration. Dhanapala has an in-depth knowledge of the United Nations gained from 10-years of exposure in working in a senior management capacity in the United Nations. As an efficient and effective senior manager he gained valuable experience in human resource and budgetary management working smoothly with staff representatives and delegations of member states. First, he served as Director (D2) of the *United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)* in Geneva (1987-92) directing policy oriented research in an autonomous think-tank broadening the financial base through fund-raising with a wider group of countries and Foundations. He acted to expand the area of research to include non-military threats to security, handbooks to assist delegations to the Conference on Disarmament, providing opportunities for training of researchers from developing countries, networking of research institutes in regions etc. and increasing the volume and impact of UNIDIR publications.

Later, Dhanapala was hand picked by Kofi Annan to take on the challenging job as Under-Secretary-General in re-establishing the *Department of Disarmament* after the UN reforms of 1997 (1998-2003). During his tenure he piloted the UN role in arresting the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, anti-personnel landmines, conventional weapons, and weapons of mass destruction while reinforcing existing norms and norm-building in other areas. He also broke new ground both in-house in taking managerial initiatives in gender mainstreaming and in work-life issues, and in the disarmament field by innovating the exchange of weapons for development programme in Albania and in other areas, and also in the cross-sectoral linking of disarmament with development, the environment and with peace education programmes.

Dhanapala has had a solid liberal education obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka and a Master of Arts (International Studies) degree from the American University of Washington D.C. in the USA. He has also had work- experience in academia as Diplomat-in-Residence in 1997 with the *Centre for Non-proliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies* in the USA researching and writing on a non-discriminatory global approach to disarmament. He has published four books and several articles in international journals, and has lectured in many countries. He was awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant to research and write his book on "Multilateral Diplomacy and the NPT: An Insider's account" published by UNIDIR, Geneva in 2005. His contributions towards the international community are widely recognized through the receipt of many awards including from; *Georgetown University, Washington D.C., the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Ploughshares Fund and the School of International Service of American University, Washington D.C.* for his work in diplomacy and disarmament, and was the *Global Security Institute's* first recipient of the *Alan Cranston Peace Award* in 2002. Dhanapala has also received several honorary degrees including Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) by the *University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka* (2000), Doctor of Humane

Letters Honoris Causa by the *Monterey Institute of International Studies, U.S.A.* (2001),  
Doctor of Science in the Social Sciences by *the University of Southampton, U.K.* (2003),  
Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) by *the Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka* (2003).

As an effective and eloquent communicator to a wide variety of audiences Dhanapala has been invited to deliver several key note lectures that include the Olof Palme Memorial lecture at the *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)* in 1999 and the Dorothy Hodgkin Memorial Lecture to *Pugwash* in 2003 and has published op-ed articles in international newspapers such as the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Financial Times* (UK)

Dhanapala born on 30 December 1938, is married with two children (a daughter who is an economist and a son who has been a professional in UNHCR from 1992-4 and from 1995 to date). He speaks fluent Sinhala, his mother tongue, and English while being proficient in both French and Chinese.