

biography

ASHFAQ M. ISHAQ



Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.

Chairman

International Child Art Foundation

Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq founded the International Child Art Foundation to harness children's imagination for positive social change. His belief that creativity and empathy are preconditions for a more just, prosperous and nonviolent world is based on his seminal research at the World Bank and the George Washington University on entrepreneurship and small business development, military burden and security needs, digital divide and the new economy, and private provision of public services. His familiarity with the power of the arts as an effective channel for children's creative and empathic development stems from his experience as an award-winning child artist.

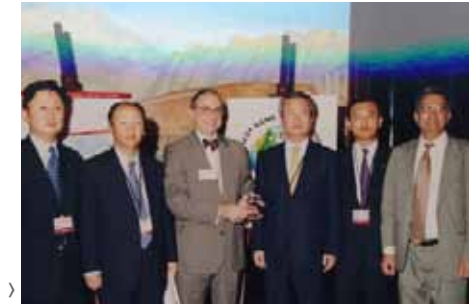
The Arts Olympiad program he developed to overcome the "4th grade slump" in creativity documented by E. Paul Torrance is today the world's largest and most prestigious arts and creative education initiative for children ages 8 to 12. Nearly 3 million children worldwide participated in the 3rd Arts Olympiad (2005-2008). The 2007 World Children's Festival he produced on the National Mall in Washington, DC was the world's largest international children's celebration. Dr. Ishaq has obtained an exclusive license from the U.S. Olympic Committee for the ICAF to use "Arts Olympiad" and related marks as well as secured support from some of the world's most creative companies – Adidas, Disney, Faber-Castell, Hilton, and LEGO.



◀ With Jane Goodall,
New York City,
2000



Sec of Army Tom White
and Portia Davidson,
Pentagon event,
2002 ▶



The World Bank/IMF
Annual Meetings with
Global Finance CEO
and guests,
Dubai,
2003 ▶



◀ With Mrs Fulbright
and Mrs Shinseki,
Pentagon,
2001



UAE school visit,
Sharjah,
2003 ▶



World Children Festival
Awards Ceremony,
Washington DC,
2003 ▶

In response to the tragedy of 9/11, he worked with leading psychologists and psychiatrists to develop a Peace through Art approach that was successfully field-tested in a program for Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot youth, partially funded by the Cyprus Fulbright Commission. In January 2005, he led a team of art therapists to develop a healing arts program that utilized the knowledge and experience gained from the treatment of child survivors of 9/11 to aid child victims of the Asian tsunami. Later that year ICAF volunteers were using their tsunami program experience to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

In addition to his cultural entrepreneurship, Dr. Ishaq has been involved in business since he started his first enterprise at the age of fifteen. More recently, he was founder of USA International,

Inc. - a project development and consulting company that played a leading role in the financial structuring of private power projects in emerging economies. In 2001, he closed down the company to devote all his time and energy to ICAF. He currently serves as a pro bono senior advisor to the Business Council for International Understanding, specifically on entrepreneurship development.

An exceptional multi-disciplinary thinker, he has written diverse publications and is co-author of *Success in Small & Medium Scale Enterprises*, Oxford University Press, 1987. The UNESCO Observatory at the University of Melbourne, Australia and the International Network of Museums for Peace in Gurnika-Lumo, Spain have published his writings on peace and arts education. His articles have appeared in the International Monetary Fund's *Finance & Develop-*



Chinese Ambassador Yang Jiechi, now Foreign Minister, Washington DC, 2005



with the ICAF Youth Board Members, Washintgon DC, 2007



Aspen Insititute's Cultural Diplomacy Forum, Paris, 2008



With Jeffrey Immelt, Chairman/CEO of GE, and Peter Tichansky, President/CEO of BCIU 2007



Fox News interview, World Children's Festival, 2007



ICAF child panelists at the World Cultural Economic Forum in New Orleans, 2008

ment; the Wall Street's Institutional Investor; the National Association of State Boards of Education's State Education Standard; the oldest U.S. art teacher magazine SchoolArts; the Arab world's leading fine art publication Canvas; the International Public Relations Association's on-line Frontline bi-monthly; the Journal of Conflict Resolution; and the U.K.'s leading medical journal The Lancet.

Dr. Ishaq holds a Ph.D. in economics from the George Washington University. He has received several awards for leadership and philanthropy, including the World Culture Open Award for Exemplary Humanitarian Service, the American Muslim Award, and the Francis Hesselbein Community Innovation Fellowship. He has chaired business conferences, delivered keynote addresses at educational conferences, and organizes and moderates children's panels at ma-

for business forums. He serves on the program committee of the Cybertherapy Conference and is member of the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, and the International Academy of the Visual Arts. He is advisor to the Aspen Institute Global Initiative on Arts, Culture and Society.