

## Global Citizen Awards Bestowed

Oct. 29, Cambridge, Mass. — Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez and Dr. Randall Caroline Forsberg — two leaders devoted to a global culture of peace — today received the Global Citizen Award by the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century.

“This award is imbued with a profound prayer for the realization of a world of peaceful co-existence,” SGI President Ikeda wrote in a message. “It is therefore most fitting that the two recipients today are renowned for their pioneering and outstanding initiatives in forging a broad based citizens’ movement for peace and disarmament.

Dr. Arias, former president of Costa Rica, which was demilitarized during his tenure, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987. He is now, with other Nobel laureates, working on an international code of conduct to restrict the sale of arms.

“There is a need for a new ethic of responsibility and morality,” Dr. Arias said in his acceptance speech. “We must accept that today’s problems were created by our thoughts and actions. The world cannot change without a transformation in human consciousness, and that transformation can only happen if we each assume certain obligations.”

Dr. Forsberg co-founded the Institute for Defense and Disarmament studies in 1979. She has written widely on the subject of disarmament and other war and peace issues. In her speech, she outlined her approach to “an international environment in which there is a steadily declining incidence of war, expectation of war and acceptance of war.... Where war would become unthinkable.”

According to Virginia Straus, executive director of the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, the Global Citizen Award was created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations’ founding.

Explaining that its purpose is to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the growth of civil society, both nationally and internationally, Straus remarked, “We believe that treasuring such courageous people in countries everywhere will help foster the emergence of a global culture of peace.”

The Global Citizen Award, established in 1995, recognizes the contributions of exemplary leaders in such fields as peace, human rights and the environment.

*Compiled by Lisa Kirk, Assistant Managing Editor.*