

The University for Peace celebrates Commencement 2010

- President Laura Chinchilla to be the keynote speaker

San José, Costa Rica. 9 July 2010.

On Friday, 9 July 2010, the United Nations-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) will hold its 2010 Commencement ceremony. The ceremony will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Auditorio Nacional in San José.

The keynote speaker of the ceremony will be **H. E. Laura Chinchilla Miranda**, President of the Republic of Costa Rica.

This year 200 students from 57 countries will receive their Master's Degree with qualifications from the ten programmes UPEACE currently offers, all of which focus on peace and conflict studies.

The students conclude an intensive 11-month programme with a commitment to peace, evident with the completion of graduation projects involving various themes of pressing interest such as refugees, human rights, media, gender, education, international law, and world politics.

“The multicultural dimension of the University for Peace has changed my world view based on the fact that it brings people of all cultures from around the world and unites them in one community; thereby understanding, respecting and appreciating others’ cultures. These characteristics then help students become strong models for promoting peace amongst themselves and throughout the world at large”, said Jerry Locula, Liberian student and Master in the programme of International Law and Human Rights.

As part of the event, UPEACE will award the title of *“Doctor Honoris Causa in Humanities”* to President Chinchilla, in recognition of her leadership on matters of human security, peace and democracy; her commitment to public service; and her achievement of being the first woman elected President of the Republic of Costa Rica.

UPEACE was established by an initiative of the Government of Costa Rica in 1980. This year marks its 30th Anniversary. Young people representing over 90 nationalities have passed through its corridors.

For further information please contact Mariela Solís Chaves, Communications Officer at Tel. (506) 2205 9008 or by email at msolis@upeace.org.