

## **The University for Peace inaugurates the celebration of its 30th Anniversary**

- President Arias given a special award as “Distinguished World Peace Leader”

*San José, Costa Rica. 22 January 2010.* University for Peace (UPEACE) officially began its thirtieth anniversary celebration today at their Campus in Rodeo de Mora, Ciudad Colón, with a special opening ceremony.

President Oscar Arias, the guest of honour, was responsible for raising the flag for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University, which initiates the year of official activities.

Also in attendance were Mrs. Mayi Antillón, Minister of Communication and Liaison, Mr. John J. Maresca, Rector of UPEACE, Dr. Amr Abdalla, Vice Rector of UPEACE, Dr. Flor Cubero, President of the Employees Association and UPEACE faculty members, and other special guests.

As part of the celebration, President Arias and Nobel Peace Prize in 1987, received a special award as "**Distinguished World Peace Leader**".

“On the occasion of this visit, UPEACE conferred on President Arias its ‘Distinguished World Peace Leader Award’ which has been established in conjunction with the University thirtieth anniversary year. President Arias is the first recipient of this award”, said John J. Maresca, Rector of University for Peace.

During his visit, the president addressed two hundred students and staff, representing over 60 nationalities, sharing his thoughts and experiences on the topic of “Learning about Peace”. In his lecture, President Arias described and reaffirmed the core value of the University for Peace:

“This centre of studies exists on the basis of a simple but courageous conviction: that it is possible to educate for peace, it is possible to use education to fight against war, violence and destruction.”

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