

His Excellency Judge C. G. Weeramantry

Christopher Gregory Weeramantry was elected a Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 1991, later becoming its Vice President (1997-2000). Prior to this, he was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka from 1965 to 1972. Currently Emeritus Professor of Law at Monash University where he was The Sir Hayden Starke Professor of law from 1972-1991, he has served as Visiting Professor at universities across the world, including Harvard University, the University of Tokyo, Stellenbosch in South Africa, the University of Papua New Guinea and the University of Florida,

Judge Weeramantry is renowned for his unswerving adherence to fundamental principles. In the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion of 8 July 1996 concerning Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons he delivered the dissenting judgment which has become the leading exposition of the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law. This began with the words "My considered opinion is that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is illegal in any circumstances whatsoever". Likewise, in the case of *Hungary/Slovakia* he delivered an opinion on sustainable development trading in the wisdom of global religions and this too has become the standard citation on sustainable development. His judgment in the *Denmark v. Norway* (Jan Mayen case) expounding the scope of equity in international law has become a standard citation on international equity.

Over the course of his professional career, Judge Weeramantry has contributed considerably to legal education. He has lectured in over fifty countries on topics including cross-cultural understanding and education, intergenerational equity, law and scientific advancement, and apartheid. He has written over thirty books, and in his most recent publication, *Tread Lightly on the Earth: Religion, Environment and the Human Future*, he explores the teachings of five great religions to argue that humanity must cease to exploit the environment for short-term gain, and instead learn to live in harmony with nature in order to ensure the ultimate survival of our species.

At the 750th anniversary of the city of The Hague, The Hague indicated its pride in its achievements in 18 different areas over the centuries. Among these 18 was international justice. A search committee charged with the task of selection of one personality to represent excellence in each of these areas chose Judge Weeramantry as the personality to representing its excellence in international justice.

Among the many awards he has received are the following.

- UNESCO Peace Education Prize in 2006
- Right Livelihood Award (alternative Nobel Prize) in the Swedish Parliament in 2007
- Sri Lankabhimanya; the Highest National Honour of Sri Lanka in 2007
- Lifetime Achievement Award of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in 2008