

# The University of Haifa

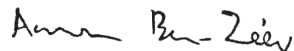
confers upon

## Shimon Peres

### The Outstanding Leadership Award

in recognition of his ongoing service to the State of Israel, with self-sacrifice and endless devotion; for his remarkable contribution to spheres relating to Israel's security and international status; for his uncompromising struggle for secure and just peace between Israel and her neighbors; for his inspiring work for society and the economy; for being a man of vision, working untiringly for the welfare of the citizens of the State of Israel, looking to the horizon while keeping his feet firmly on the ground; for helping establish the central and vital role of science and research in the State of Israel, in the awareness that the fruits of investment in higher education today will be reaped by us all tomorrow.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel  
19 Sivan 5770/June 1, 2010



**Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev**  
President



**Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi**  
Rector



**Mr. Amos Gaver**  
Vice-President

## SHIMON PERES

Born in 1923 in Vishneva, Belarus, Shimon Peres immigrated with his family to Mandatory Palestine in 1934. He received his schooling at the Balfour and Geula schools in Tel Aviv and later at the Ben Shemen Youth Village. At the age of 20 he was recruited as an organizer in the Hanoar Haoved (Labor-Zionist) youth movement and was later appointed its Secretary-General.

In 1947, at age 24, he was drafted into the Haganah by David Ben-Gurion and Levi Eshkol. Beginning the military chapter of his life in 1948, he served as head of the Naval Services and also headed a Ministry of Defense delegation to the United States. In 1953, at only 30, Mr. Peres was appointed Director General of the Ministry of Defense. In this role, Mr. Peres was responsible for creating the special relations between Israel and France. He was instrumental in establishing Israel's Aircraft Industries and nuclear program.

Mr. Peres' political career began in 1959, lasting 48 years and involving four parties: Mapai, Rafi, Labor and Kadima. He has held almost every possible position in the Government of Israel, starting with his first post as Deputy Defense Minister and followed by other positions that included Minister of Immigrant Absorption; Minister of Transportation and Communications; Minister of Defense; Minister of Finance; Foreign Minister; Minister of Regional Cooperation; Minister for the Development of the Negev and the Galilee; and, of course, Prime Minister from 1984 to 1986, and again after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, from 1995 to 1996. In 2007 Mr. Peres was elected to serve as the Ninth President of the State of Israel.

"I did not dream of becoming president. My dream as a boy was to be a shepherd or a poet of the stars," he said at the Presidential inauguration ceremony. Indeed, over the years, Mr. Peres, the man of the book, has not neglected his love of literature and has written and participated in the writing of twelve books.

Throughout his public life, Mr. Peres has stood out as a person of vision, looking to the future without dismissing the present. From the 1980s he was the driving force behind the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians in particular and the Arab world in general. He was one of the architects of the Oslo Accords, which spearheaded agreements between Israel and the Palestinians, and in 1994 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize alongside Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat.

In 1996 he established the Peres Center for Peace, which initiates and promotes joint projects with Israel's Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian neighbors in economic, cultural, educational, sport-related, scientific and technological, agricultural, communications and medical fields. Throughout his public life, he has maintained that science and technology should be harnessed for the benefit of the State of Israel and that prominence in science, research and technology constitutes Israel's qualitative edge and therefore calls for investment and empowerment. In recent years Mr. Peres has become involved in promoting fields relating to nano-technology and the quality of the environment.