

GOLDEN RULE AWARD TO UNESCO-PROFESSOR TAPIO VARIS

Golden Rule Award (Kultainen sääntö -palkinto) has been awarded to Finnish UNESCO-professor Tapio Varis. He has greatly contributed four decades to create culture of peace, in promoting dialogue and values of new humanism. Tapio Varis has served as UNESCO Chair in global e-learning with applications to multiple domains.

"Internationalism and acceptance of cultural diversity mean having citizens who are committed to what happens to the planet and who are aware of the global scope of its problems. Only a media-based public sphere that promotes and gives direction to people's participation can foster this new type of citizenship. This requires profound reform in the organization of the current communication networks as well as in their flows," says Tapio Varis.

Tapio Varis thinks, that education programs must be the fruit of cooperation and communication between people. Present day technologies are starting to enable this and global media literacy can help us to achieve this.

The Award was given at the Syria, dialogue and media -event organized by The Faiths Without Borders (Uskot ilman rajoja ry.) and netmedia Baabeli in co operation with Myllypuro media library in Helsinki, during the 2013 World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The Golden Rule Award was awarded by the Interfaith Dialogue Network, which consists of Helsinki Religious Forum of The United Religions Initiative (URI), Religions for Peace Women of Faith Network in Finland, Living together in Cities (Kaupunki yhteisönä ry.) and multiregional Faiths Without Borders (Uskot ilman rajoja ry.), Netmedia Baabeli has joined to this network. The Network works in fellowship with Parliament of the World's Religions, which has named Helsinki as one of its Cities of Peace.

"The Golden Rule Award is a stone given as a sign of gratitude to people who try to implement The Golden Rule in practice. The Golden Rule is the ground for dialogue but it is actually the process of dialogue that leads people to really walk on the path of Golden Rule", says Heidi Rautionmaa, Finland's Interfaith Dialogue Network Coordinator.

Previous Golden Rule awardees:

Professor Emeritus Reijo E. Heinonen, 2009

President of Finland Tarja Halonen, 2010

Fr. James Channan, OP and Grand Imam Maulana Abd-ul Khabir Azad, 2011