

## biography ASHFAQ M. ISHAQ

Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq founded the International Child Art Foundation to harness children's imagination for positive social change. His belief that creativity and empathy are preconditions for a sustainable, prosperous and nonviolent future is rooted in his seminal research at the World Bank and the George Washington University. He has written on entrepreneurship and business development, military burden and security needs, digital divide and the new economy, and private provision of public services. His familiarity with the power of the arts as an effective channel for children's creative and empathic development stems from his experience as an award-winning child artist.

The Arts Olympiad initiative he developed to address the "4th grade slump" in children's creativity is today the world's largest and most prestigious global program for 8 to 12 year old children. To date, nearly 5 million children worldwide have participated in and benefitted from the Arts Olympiads. The World Children's Festival he produces on The National Mall every four years has grown into the largest international children's celebration and a permanent quadrennial event in Washington, DC.

Dr. Ishaq negotiated and obtained an exclusive license from the U.S. Olympic Committee for ICAF to use "Arts Olympiad" and related marks. He has also secured support from some of the world's most creative companies for ICAF.



**Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.**  
Chairman

International Child Art Foundation



With Beijing artist Yuan Xikan and staff  
at ICAF office  
Washington, DC: April 2010



Introducing Malaysia's Prime Minister to  
former New York State Governor Mario Cuomo  
New York City: April 2010



Moderating the international children's  
panel at Global Competitiveness Forum  
Riyadh: January 2010



ICAF youth panelists at the  
World Cultural Economic Forum  
New Orleans: October 2008



With GE Chairman Jeffrey Immelt and  
BCIU President/CEO Peter Tichansky  
New York City: October 2008



Opening the 3rd World Children's Festival  
Washington DC: June 2007

In response to the tragedy of 9/11, he worked with leading psychologists and psychiatrists to develop a Peace through Art approach that was successfully field-tested in a program for Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot youth, partially funded by the Cyprus Fulbright Commission. In January 2005, he led a team of art therapists to develop a healing arts program that utilized the knowledge and experience gained from the treatment of child survivors of 9/11 to aid child victims of the Asian tsunami. Later that year ICAF was using its tsunami experience to remediate the suffering of the Hurricane Katrina victims.

In addition to his cultural entrepreneurship, Dr. Ishaq has been involved in business since he started his first enterprise at the age of fifteen to fund his studies. Prior to ICAF, he was CEO of a project development that played a leading role in financial structuring and economic analysis of private infrastructure projects in the emerging economies. In 2001, he closed the company to devote his attention and energy to ICAF. Currently he serves as senior advisor to Business Council for International Understanding, specifically on entrepreneurship development in the Muslim world.

He is co-author of *Success in Small & Medium Scale Enterprises* published by the Oxford University Press. The UNESCO Observatory at the University of Melbourne and the International Network of Museums for Peace in Gurnika-Lumo have published his writings on peace and arts education.





Fox News interview, World Children's Festival  
Washington, DC: June 2007



Turin Olympics event of Truce Foundation  
Turin: February 2006



With then-Ambassador Yang Jiechi  
now China's Foreign Minister  
Washington, DC: April 2005



At Leptis Magna  
Libya: March 2005



With Mrs. Shinseki and Mrs. Fulbright  
The Pentagon: October 2001



Moderating First Ladies Forum during  
The UN Millenium Summit  
New York City: December 1999

His articles have appeared in the IMF's *Finance & Development*; the Wall Street's *Institutional Investor*; the National Association of State Boards of Education's *State Education Standard*; the oldest U.S. art teacher magazine *SchoolArts*; the Arab world's leading fine art publication *Canvas*; the International Public Relations Association's on-line *Frontline* bi-monthly; the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; and the U.K.'s leading medical journal *The Lancet*.

He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the George Washington University. He has received several awards for leadership and philanthropy, including the World Culture Open Award for Exemplary Humanitarian Service, the American Muslim Award, and the Francis Hesselbein Community Innovation Fellowship. He has chaired a business conference in Washington and is invited as keynote speaker to educational conferences. He is passionate about organizing children's panels at major forums where business leaders convene to discuss the future.