FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New IIASA Scholarship Honors First Director

May 3, 2000 – LAXENBURG, Austria – The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) is pleased to announce establishment of the “Raiffa Scholarship” in honor of Dr. Howard Raiffa, IIASA’s first director. On April 4, Prof. Raiffa received the 1999 Dickson Prize for Science and donated a portion of his prize money to IIASA.

The Raiffa Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student in IIASA’s Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP) who will participate in the PIN Project (Processes of International Negotiations Network). The mission of the PIN Project is to improve the process and understanding of negotiations — an endeavor important to Raiffa throughout his career.

The Dickson Prize, conferred by Carnegie Mellon University to honor the late Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Z. Dickson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is given annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to science. Raiffa’s selection for the lifetime achievement award is notable because he is the first scientist in a non-traditional field — in his case, Decision Sciences — to receive the honor.

Raiffa, currently the Frank Plumpton Ramsey Professor of Managerial Economics, Emeritus, at Harvard Business School, was a key negotiator with leaders of the United States, Russia, and other world powers in the formation of IIASA and creation of its charter in 1972. As Raiffa said in a 1992 interview, “negotiations went on during the Cold War, the time of Vietnam and Czechoslovakian revolt, and still they culminated in IIASA. This is really remarkable.”

As IIASA’s first director, serving from 1972 to 1975, Raiffa set IIASA’s early agenda and attracted scholars from East and West to address, in his words, “problems that plagued our advanced societies: problems like energy, our oceans, the environment, health.”

Raiffa is credited with introducing game theory to many social scientists and with launching the new scholarly field of Decision Sciences. He has authored a number of award-winning books. The most influential are Games and Decisions (1957) with R. Duncan Luce, Decision Analysis (1968), and The Art and Science of Negotiation (1982). His most recent book is Smart Choices, A Practical Guide (1994).

IIASA is an independent, non-governmental, interdisciplinary research institution that specializes in natural and social scientific research methods and models for use by policy makers, the scientific community and the public worldwide. IIASA is an international institution, with sponsoring member organizations in 15 countries. To learn more about Dr. Raiffa, IIASA’s early years, or the PIN project, visit IIASA’s web site at www.iiasa.ac.at.

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