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Page 1  
 Date 25-Jul-2003  
 Time 10:15:19 AM  
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CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-05028

II Document Register Number [auto] **CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-05028**

ExRef: Document Series / Year / Number **E/ICEF/1995/CRP.0029**

Doc Item Record Title

**Statement by H.E.Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, President of the UNICEF Executive Board, at the presentation of the 1995 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award to Professor Ihsan Dogramaci of Turkey**

Date Created / On Doc  
 18-May-1995

Date Registered  
 01-Jan-1997

Date Closed / Superseeded

Primary Contact  
 Owner Location Office of the Secretary, Executive Bo = 3024  
 Home Location Office of the Secretary, Executive Bo = 3024  
 Current Location Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443

I1: In Out Internal, Rec or Conv Copy?  
 Fd2: Language, Orig Pub Dist  
 Fd3: Doc Type or Format

English , L.Avail: E.. ; L.Orig: E-?

Container File Folder Record  
 Container Record (Title)

Nu1: Number of pages  
 0

Nu2: Doc Year  
 1995

Nu3: Doc Number  
 29

Full GCG File Plan Code  
 Record GCG File Plan

Da1: Date Published  
 18-May-1995

Da2: Date Received

Da3: Date Distributed

Priority

Record Type A04 Doc Item: E/ICEF 1946 to 1997 Ex Bd

Electronic Details

No Document

DOS File Name

Alt Bar code = RAMP-TRIM Record Number

**CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-05028**

Notes

Document Format Series/Year/SubSeries/Number/Rev: E/ICEF/1995/CRP.0029; Doc Series/SubSeries/Year/Number/Rev: E/ICEF/CRP/1995/29  
 Doc Series: E/ICEF/CRP; Series Valid date on import: 01-Jan-1954; Doc Year: 1995; Doc Number: 0029;

Print Name of Person Submit Images

Signature of Person Submit

Number of images without cover

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND  
Executive Board  
Annual session 1995  
22-26 May 1995

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KHALIL MAKKAWI,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD,  
AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE 1995 UNICEF MAURICE PATE AWARD

1. The UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, established in honour of the first Executive Director of UNICEF, is presented every year on the occasion of the Executive Board's annual session to recognize and honour an institution, organization or individual for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement and well-being of children. The Executive Board made the decision for this year's award at its first regular session in February this year.
2. This year's recipient of the Maurice Pate Award, Professor Ihsan Dogramaci of Turkey, has made outstanding contributions to the fields of public health and child survival for more than 50 years. Born in 1915, Professor Dogramaci began his collaboration with UNICEF in 1959, when Maurice Pate was the Executive Director. He was twice elected Chairman of the Executive Board, in 1968 and 1969, and also served as Chairman of the Programme Committee in 1966 and 1967. Professor Dogramaci currently has the distinction of being the longest-serving delegate to the Executive Board. He has been President of the Turkish National Committee for UNICEF since 1958.
3. In keeping with his commitment to improve national health services, particularly paediatric services, in 1963 he founded in Ankara the Faculty of Medicine at Hacettepe, which four years later became a full-fledged university. Today, Hacettepe University is Turkey's leading medical school. Its integrated teaching system has revolutionized the training of health care personnel and led to the establishment of medical faculties in other provincial cities. In 1985, he founded Turkey's first private non-medical university, Bilkent, which has over 30,000 students. He still serves as President and Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees. His tireless devotion to the cause of children and his activism in the field of paediatrics have been a source of inspiration for generations of students.
4. Over the years, Professor Dogramaci has been the prime mover in a number of major activities related to the well-being of children. In 1985, he was central to the success of the internationally recognized national immunization campaign in Turkey, enlisting the participation of the President and Prime Minister. He personally generated and hosted a series of events to launch the campaign, including a meeting of all of the country's 67 regional governors. To support such global activities as the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and the publication of international child health periodicals, he promoted the establishment of a joint task force of the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the International Paediatrics Association (IPA), which meets annually.
5. Always at the forefront of reforms in education and health, Professor Dogramaci has been a senior adviser to the Government of Turkey, assisting in the introduction of progressive health policies for women and

children. Throughout the 1980s, Professor Dogramaci served as President of Turkey's Higher Education Council, a body formed by the Government to balance and expand the Turkish university system. During his tenure, more than a dozen new universities were established outside the traditional academic centres of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

6. Professor Dogramaci's determination to give priority to the needs of women and children is evident in his multifaceted activities and the alliances he has forged over the years. As Turkey's chief delegate to the World Health Assembly from 1976 to 1981, he served as its Vice-President in 1976 and was a member of several WHO advisory committees during the 1970s and 1980s. He was President of IPA from 1968 to 1977 and its Executive Director from 1977 to 1993; and he was named IPA Honourary President for life in 1992. Professor Dogramaci is also President of the Turkish and International Children's Centre in Ankara.

7. As the Executive Director has told us, in November 1992, Professor Dogramaci joined the late Jim Grant on a visit to Sarajevo, which culminated in a cease-fire that permitted the distribution of medical supplies and children's clothing to the besieged city. In 1993 and 1994, he guided and supported the establishment of national paediatric societies in the newly independent Central Asian republics and other countries.

8. Despite his many commitments, Professor Dogramaci has contributed many scholarly articles to periodicals on paediatrics, public health and medical education. In addition to two books on child health and the care of premature babies, he has written about subjects as diverse as child labour and metabolic disorders. His international reputation for distinguished public service has been recognized in over a dozen countries. He has been awarded honorary degrees and such decorations as the French Legion of Honour, Turkey's National Award for Distinguished Services and the WHO Leon Bernard Foundation Prize.

9. On behalf of the Executive Board, I have the honour to invite Professor Dogramaci to accept the 1995 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award.

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