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**DR. PAYAMAN SIMANJUNTAK HONORED AT WORLD CONFERENCE
Indonesian Leader Wins Coveted Kasumigaura Award**

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 26, 2003)--Payaman Simanjuntak, Ph.D., chairman of the Lake Toba Heritage Foundation, won the prestigious Ibaraki Kasumigaura Prize in recognition of a paper he recently presented at the 10th World Lakes Conference, held in Chicago, USA. Professor Simanjuntak was honored for the outstanding content of “**The Role of NGOs in Implementing the World Lake Vision,**” the paper he wrote and presented at the international conference.

The Ibaraki Kasumigaura prize is awarded by Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, for the most outstanding paper on lake conservation. The award includes a medal, a certificate, and cash in the amount of Yen 300,000. Mr. Masuru Hashimoto, Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture, presented the award at a special reception held on 24 June in Chicago.

The core message of Dr. Simanjuntak’s paper was that, like numerous lakes worldwide, many lakes in Indonesia are in critical condition and that quick action to implement the principles of the World Lake Vision was crucial to their restoration. The World Lakes Vision, which was recently launched in Shiga, Japan, calls for actions to be taken at the local, national and international levels.

In his prize-winning paper, Dr. Simanjuntak outlined a five-step strategy for the implementation of the World Lake Vision in Indonesia: (1) establish a lake forum at the national, regional and individual lake levels; (2) disseminate the World Lake Vision through those lake forums; (3) formulate Indonesian and individual lake visions and action plans; (4) encourage the

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establishment of lake authorities; and (5) mobilize local, regional, national and international institutions and networks to maintain sustainable development around Indonesian lakes.

Dr. Simanjuntak is an initiator of the recent meeting of the Indonesian Lake Forum conducted on 4 June 2003 in Jakarta. He is a senior official of the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration and Chairman of the International Steering Committee of LakeNet, a global network of organizations and individuals working for the sustainable development and conservation of lakes.

For more information on the World Lake Vision, visit www.worldlakes.org/vision.html.

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