

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION

Des Moines, Iowa – (August 23, 1999) Mr. John Ruan, Chairman of the World Food Prize Foundation today announced that following an international search, former U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Dr. Kenneth M. Quinn will return to Iowa to accept the post of Executive Director, effective January 2000. He will replace Herman C. Kilpper, the current Executive Director, who will continue to work with the Foundation until his retirement next year.

The World Food Prize, considered by many to be the "Nobel Prize" for food, annually honors the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world.

"We could not be more excited for the future of The World Food Prize than we are by Dr. Quinn's acceptance of this important position," said Mr. Ruan. "As an Iowan who rose to become one of the most decorated Foreign Service officers in the U.S. State Department, we feel that Dr. Quinn is a perfect fit for The Prize."

Dr. Quinn, 57, raised in Dubuque, Iowa, is a graduate of Loras College. He earned his M.A. at Marquette University and holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Maryland. His career in Foreign Service has spanned more than 30 years. He recently resigned from his post as U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia which he has held since January, 1996.

In addition to Dr. Quinn's decorated foreign service career, he served as Administrative Assistant to Iowa Governor Robert Ray during the period 1978 – 1982 and was Executive Director of Iowa SHARES, a unique statewide program to aid starving Cambodian refugees and resettle "boat people" from Vietnam and ethnic Tai Dam refugees from Laos.

Among his numerous awards, Dr. Quinn is the recipient of the Secretary of State's Award for Valor and Heroism, the Secretary of State's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Defense Department Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, the State Department Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards, and the Loras College Distinguished Alumnus Award.

"Our enthusiasm for the future of the World Food Prize could not be meaningful if we did not recognize Herman Kilpper for his outstanding leadership as executive director over the past decade," Mr. Ruan continued. "Herman has embodied many of the very same qualities our laureates have exhibited – clear vision, total dedication and extraordinary drive. Under Herman's leadership, The Prize has gained significant prominence and is positioned for even greater recognition in the years to come."

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