



## WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

### Ichtiague Rasool

#### **For outstanding and sustained international leadership in advancing remote sensing as a fundamental element in Earth system science**

Dr. Ichtiague Rasool is a man of vision with a unique understanding of the role that remote sensing plays in the scientific quest to understand the Earth. Dr. Rasool has made important scientific contributions that include researching Earth's climate and vegetation, and the evolution of planetary atmospheres; guiding major governmental research and development programs in space-based remote sensing; envisioning and then instigating the development of global environmental datasets; and organizing the international science community to tackle global environmental change research. Dr. Rasool was co-founder of the International Satellite Land Surface Climatology Project and was one of the founders of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program. His publication record includes over 100 scientific and technical papers and numerous books. Dr. Rasool has been a mentor to many young scientists and has earned numerous kudos and testimonials for selflessly helping others develop their careers.

Dr. Rasool has had an extraordinary and varied half-century career that started when he became a weather forecaster with the fledgling Pakistani government. During a 20-year period serving at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters, Dr. Rasool consistently advanced remote sensing. As Chief Scientist in the Office of Space and Terrestrial Applications, he was responsible for assuring the scientific integrity of NASA's programs in Earth observations with satellites such as Landsat, Nimbus, TIROS and Spacelab. He also served as Chief Scientist for Global Change Programs in the Office of Space Science and Applications and was instrumental in establishing the NASA Pathfinder program for global datasets. In 1990, Dr. Rasool became Director of the IGBP Data and Information System. He is now an independent researcher and consultant in the area of remote sensing related to carbon and the water cycle.

Dr. Rasool's approach is egalitarian and crosses boundaries of organization and ownership. He recognizes talent and motivates others to make things happen. Dr. Rasool can be counted upon to ask a penetrating question, and then to envision and inspire the research needed to answer the question. He has given generously of his time, and is always willing to travel anywhere at any time to speak of the wonders of Earth system science and the extraordinary power of remote sensing. His wit and humor have brightened countless meetings and helped to find solutions to difficult problems and forge new partnerships.

In recognition of these accomplishments, the Department of the Interior and NASA take great pleasure in presenting the 2002 William T. Pecora Award to Dr. Ichtiague Rasool.

Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Secretary of the Interior