



Dr. Hana Ayala



## *Dr. Hana Ayala Honored with Gold Medal*

PANGEA WORLD's President Dr. Hana Ayala was awarded, on 18 September 2003, a Gold Medal from Brno's Masaryk University (a pivotal center of culture and education of the Czech Republic). This award honors Dr. Ayala's professional achievement, with an emphasis on her TCR economic-development model and the flagship national TCR project she devised for Panama. Masaryk University bestows the Gold Medal upon "*prominent representatives of science, culture, and public life, in recognition and appreciation of extraordinary merits in advancing science, culture, and art.*"

Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is a previous recipient of Masaryk University's Gold Medal (6 March 2000), for her contribution to democracy and humanity.



Masaryk University's President, Professor Jiří Zlatuška, presenting Dr. Ayala with the Gold Medal.

The Gold Medal tribute to Dr. Ayala's accomplishment was highlighted at the 3rd International Symposium on Digital Earth, "Digital Earth: Information Resources for Global Sustainability" (Brno, Czech Republic, 21-25 September 2003), in the context of Hana Ayala's keynote address on "*The Art and Power of Welding Science and Heritage in a Knowledge Economy for the 21st Century.*" The symposium—featuring 250 participants from 33 countries—took place between the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, December 2003). It was co-organized by the International Society on Digital Earth and Masaryk University, in cooperation with other institutions including the International Cartographic Association, Joint Research Center of the European Commission, United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and PANGEA WORLD. NASA, INTERGRAPH Corporation, and the World Bank's Information for Development Program were the symposium's Platinum Sponsors. Dr. Ayala was a member of the symposium's Program Committee and co-chair of the symposium's topic of "Global Sustainability."



*Photography by Masaryk University*