

### **Dag Hammarskjold Medal Awards Ceremony 29 May 2009**

The 29<sup>th</sup> of May is designated, by UN Resolution, as International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The occasion is marked annually by ceremonies including the presentation of the Dag Hammarskjold Medal to the Permanent Missions of those troops, civilian police, military observers and civilians who died in the service of peace in the previous year whilst serving in United Nations Peace Operations.

On 29 May 2009 Ambassador Paul Kavanagh accepted the medal on behalf of Ireland in respect of Mr Paul Fennelly, a UN civilian staff member, who died while serving with the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in 2008. Ireland first contributed personnel to peace keeping duties with the United Nations in 1958 and since then has contributed almost 60,000 individual tours of duty to Missions throughout the World. During this period eighty five (85) Irish personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace.

Ambassador Kavanagh is pictured receiving the Dag Hammarskjold Medal from Mr Alain Le Roy, Under Secretary General, Department of Peace Keeping Operations.