

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## Laurier to host international Greening of Industry conference

For Immediate Release

June 14, 2007  
38-07

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WATERLOO — A prominent group of international experts will gather at Wilfrid Laurier University from June 15 to 17 to discuss the role of organizations in sustainable development.

The objective of the Sustainable Ecosystem and Social Stewardship Conference is to bring together leading thinkers on sustainability from industry, government and academia in a collaborative forum. The conference will feature 125 thought-leaders from 20 countries who will base their discussions on three major themes: Sustainable Energy & Transportation, Sustainable Innovation, and Sustainable Business Models for the Base of the Pyramid.

“To make genuine progress on sustainable development, businesses need to move from separate strategies for ‘greening’ and ‘community engagement’ toward an integrated stewardship of the resources, ecosystems, and communities that are impacted by their operations along the entire supply chain—from cradle to grave, from one generation to the next, from one species to another, and from one society to another,” says conference organizer Dr. Sanjay Sharma, a Laurier business professor who holds a Canada Research Chair in Organizational Sustainability.

To encourage frank discussions, the conference will abide by the Chatham House Rule and therefore sessions will not be open to the media. However, conference organizers will facilitate media requests for interviews with individual participants.

Featured speakers at the conference include corporate leaders from companies such as Philips NV Netherlands, LG Industries Korea, GE Energy USA, Baker Hughes USA, Suncor Canada,

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CIBC Canada, Alcan Canada, and the Forest Products Association of Canada; as well as managers from various environment ministries, municipalities and other public-sector institutions; and leading academics from the U.S., Canada, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, India and Africa.

A summary of the conference findings will be made available later in a special issue of the journal *Business Strategy and the Environment* (John Wiley & Sons) published by the Greening of Industry Network (GIN) and in a book to be published by Edward Elgar Academic Publishing. The conference papers will also be available on the GIN website ([www.greeningofindustry.org](http://www.greeningofindustry.org)) for GIN members.

The Sustainable Ecosystem and Social Stewardship Conference is presented by the Laurier School of Business & Economics, the CMA Centre for Responsible Organizations, and the International Greening of Industry Network.

**About The CMA Centre for Responsible Organizations:**

The centre's mission is to foster responsible organizations by establishing the School of Business & Economics at Wilfrid Laurier University as a pre-eminent research centre contributing to knowledge development and organizational capacity-building in this field. The centre develops and disseminates knowledge to its stakeholders on the roles and responsibilities of organizations in society, and acts as a catalyst in creating a new generation of managers who are committed to, and knowledgeable about, societal responsibility.

**About The Greening of Industry Network:**

The Greening of Industry Network (GIN) is an international network of professionals from research, education, business, civil society organizations, and government, focusing on issues of industrial development, environment, and society, and dedicated to building a sustainable future. GIN has three major chapters: GIN Americas, GIN Europe, and GIN Asia. The Greening of Industry Network develops knowledge and transforms practice to accelerate progress toward a sustainable society.