

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Experts gather in Waterloo to examine Canada's role in Africa

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WATERLOO — Academics, humanitarian assistance workers, military, and diplomatic personnel with direct experience in Africa will gather in Waterloo this Friday to analyze the role of international intervention and recovery efforts in Sierra Leone.

The workshop, "Rescuing a Fragile State: The Case of Sierra Leone," will examine the critical problems facing the fragile country and the lessons learned by international efforts to support its post-war recovery.

Following the closed workshop, the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) will host a free public lecture, "At the Tipping Point: Canada's Pivotal Role in Africa," by Chris Roberts, co-founder of the Canadian Council on Africa. The lecture will take place Friday, November 23, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. Several workshop participants will be available for media interviews.

EVENT: Free public lecture: "At the Tipping Point: Canada's Pivotal Role in Africa."

DATE: Friday, November 23, 2007.

TIME: Lecture: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), 57 Erb St. W., Waterloo.

EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:

Ian Smillie, global expert, humanitarian projects, and research coordinator on Partnership Africa Canada's "Diamonds and Human Security Project."

Chris Roberts, keynote speaker, co-founder of the Canadian Council on Africa.

Lansana Gberie, journalist and academic, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Ed Stanisowski, senior Canadian officer with the military mission in Sierra Leone.

Peter Penfold, former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone.

Ismail Rashid, academic, Vassar College, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Terry Copp, director, Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies.

Hany Besada, senior researcher at CIGI, Fragile States.

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The one-day workshop is part of a series of workshops on the role of international intervention and reconstruction in fragile states. The workshops are organized by the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS), The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), and The Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS).

The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) is a think tank that addresses international governance challenges and provides informed advice to decision-makers on multilateral governance issues. CIGI supports research initiatives by recognized experts and promising academics; forms networks that link world-class minds across disciplines; informs and shapes dialogue among scholars, opinion leaders, key policy-makers and the concerned public; and builds capacity by supporting excellence in policy-related scholarship. CIGI's IGLOO® (International Governance Leaders and Organizations Online) is an online network that facilitates knowledge exchange between individuals and organizations studying, working or advising on global issues. Thousands of researchers, practitioners, educators and students use IGLOO to connect, share and exchange knowledge regardless of social, political and geographical boundaries. Visit www.cigionline.org or www.igloo.org

The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS) was founded in 1991 and fosters research, teaching, and public discussion of historical and contemporary military and strategic issues. The Centre's research activities are multi-disciplinary, with concentrations on military history and the strategic analysis of defence operations and peacekeeping. LCMSDS has an extensive publications program, specializing in books and reports on various aspects of Canada's military history and on contemporary strategic questions. The Centre publishes Canadian Military History, a quarterly journal.