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International central banking leaders convene at Laurier for symposium

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University’s School of Business & Economics will host a two-day symposium called The Central Bank Communication, Decision-Making and Governance on April 28-29, 2009.

International experts will explore the problems that central banks face in communicating their policies to the financial sector and to the public. The symposium will focus on these issues from the standpoint of academic researchers, central bank policy-makers and the journalists that report on monetary policy.

The event will feature:

- Alan S. Blinder, professor of economics and public affairs, Princeton University, and former vice-chairman, Federal Open Market Committee, U.S. Federal Reserve;
- Charles Goodhart, former deputy director of Financial Markets Group, London School of Economics, and member of the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee;
- Bill Robson, president and CEO, C.D. Howe Institute.

The event will also feature keynote speaker Jorge Braga de Macedo, professor and director of the Centre for Globalization and Governance (CG&G), Faculty of Economics, Nova University of Lisbon; Amund Holmsen, director of the Monetary Policy Department, Monetary Policy Wing, Norges Bank; Gordon Thiessen, former governor of the Bank of Canada; and Daniel L. Thornton, vice-president and economic advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

“We are very pleased to be able to host this significant event, which involves such high calibre academics and policy-makers from around the globe,” said Laurier economics professor Dr. Pierre Siklos, organizer of the event.

The main sponsor of the symposium is the Viessmann European Research Centre (www.wlu.ca/viessmann). Other sponsors for the event include the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

The Viessmann European Research Centre aims to stimulate research and has a multi-disciplinary focus, including monetary policy in the euro area, European integration, regional development, external linkages, trade and political expansions, as well as other overarching socio-economic concerns. The centre produces an annual conference, as well as several workshops that explore contemporary issues facing Europe.

The symposium is at complete capacity. Members of the media are welcome to contact Pierre Siklos at psiklos@wlu.ca for additional information. To view the complete event agenda please visit the event website at www.wlu.ca/viessmann/Conference_9.htm.