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UNU-INWEH Climate Change Policy Seminar Series

Global Governance: Five Gaps, the 2004 Tsunami, and Climate Change

Speaker: Dr Ramesh Thakur

Venue: Council Chambers
Gilmour Hall 111
McMaster University, Hamilton

Date: Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009
Time: 2:00pm

Abstract: Global governance consists of formal and informal arrangements that provide more order and stability for the world than would occur naturally. The range of international cooperation without a world government, growing interdependence, recognition of problems that defy solutions by a single state, and numbers and importance of non-state actors have contributed to the growth of global governance as an analytical framework. The best way to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the UN's past, present, and future roles is to examine five "gaps" (knowledge, normative, policy, institutional, and compliance) in contemporary global governance. The talk concludes with a discussion of the 2004 tsunami and global climate change in order to illustrate how this analytical lens works when examining a specific events and an issue-area.

About the speaker: Dr. Ramesh Thakur is currently Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation and Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. From 1998 to 2007, Dr. Thakur was Vice Rector and Senior Vice Rector of the United Nations University (and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations). He is the author or editor of more than thirty books and 300 articles and book chapters and he is a regular contributor for newspapers in Canada and around the world.

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