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Expert addresses regional solutions to Afghanistan conflict

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Oct. 14, 2009

Contact: Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2988.

EXPERT ADDRESSES REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TO AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT

MISSOULA —

James Clad, a world-renowned expert on Southeast Asia and the Middle East, will be at The University of Montana on Monday, Oct. 19, to discuss policy options for the Afghanistan conflict.

Clad, who is with National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, will present "Out of the Imbroglio: Regional Solutions to the Afghan Issue" at 7 p.m. in James E. Todd Building Room 204. The event is free and open to the public.

Clad will discuss how a U.S.-backed regional settlement provides the best exit and real prospects for burden-sharing. He also will talk about the decisions President Barack Obama will need to make and how they may be affected by campaign promises and public pressure.

Clad is a former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for South and Southeast Asia. He has served as senior counselor and director for Middle Eastern affairs at the Overseas Private Investment Corp. and as senior counselor for policy and donor coordination at the U.S. Agency for International Development. He was professor of South and Southeast Asian studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and director of Asia-Pacific Energy at Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Trained as a New Zealand lawyer, Clad's career interests concentrated on Asian risk issues and cross-border energy projects, broadening after 2002 to include the Middle East. His recent publications include book chapters analyzing Sino-Indian relations, Afghanistan and its South Asian context, and U.S.-India strategic convergence.

Clad's presentation is co-sponsored by UM Continuing Education, the Office of International Programs and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center. For more information, visit the center's Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield> or call 406-243-2988.

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