

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**In wake of tsunami disaster,
Art Gallery of Hamilton to participate in
international training course in emergency preparedness**

In August, staff members from the Art Gallery of Hamilton and the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa will join experts from around the world in Thailand to establish emergency preparedness plans for museums and galleries.

National museum and gallery representatives from Japan, India, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Canada will convene in Bangkok, the Thai capital, for *Teamwork for Integrated Emergency Management*.

Following the initial two-week workshop in Bangkok, both the Canadian Conservation Institute and the Art Gallery of Hamilton will follow the newly developed course for eight months, drawing up an emergency plan for each organization. The subsequent emergency plan will be shared with other Canadian institutions as well as international museums and galleries.

Representing the Art Gallery of Hamilton will be Shirley Madill, the AGH's Vice-President and COO. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the AGH," says Ms. Madill. "Such a pilot course will have great relevance for preservation of our cultural objects for the future as global disasters seem to increase from terrorist attacks, floods and earthquakes. We will be working with the Getty Conservation Institute, the International Council of Museums and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property and the Canadian Conservation Institute to develop and write a model for an Emergency and Disaster Plan that will serve institutions on an international scale."

The Art Gallery of Hamilton looks forward to contributing to this invaluable initiative that will benefit institutions and protect their cultural legacy.

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