

## **SFU Press Releases Collection**

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## **Avalanche experts descend on SFU Vancouver**

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October 27, 2006

Simon Fraser University's Centre for Natural Hazard Research will co-host the first international workshop on snow avalanches with the Coastal and Mountain Meteorology Laboratory of Environment Canada between Oct. 30 and November 2 at SFU Vancouver. The workshop, Improving Snow Avalanche Forecasting - Now and in the Future, will unite experts from France, Switzerland, China, India, New Zealand, USA and Canada to:

- \225 examine international approaches to avalanche awareness and forecasting;
- \225 share progress in avalanche research and strategies for overcoming knowledge gaps;
- \225 exchange methods to monitor conditions conducive to avalanches;
- \225 build better understanding of avalanche processes;
- \225 share strategies for educating the public.

John Clague, Canada Research Chair in natural hazard research at SFU, notes there has been a rise in avalanche-related deaths in Canada over the past several years. He says the workshop "presents an excellent opportunity for anyone who wants to learn more about avalanche safety awareness and the latest advances in avalanche research." Plenary speakers include:

- \225 John Pomeroy, Professor, Centre for Hydrology, University of Saskatchewan Canada
- \225 Jürg Schweizer, Senior Research Scientist , Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research.
- François Sivardière, Director Association nationale pour l'étude de la neige et des avalanches, France
- \225 Ian McCammon, SnowPit Technologies, USA
- \225 Ashwagosh Ganju, Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment, India

During a free public lecture on Wednesday, Nov. 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., at UBC Robson Square, experts from Canada and Switzerland will discuss how best to communicate avalanche risks to the public. For more information about registration and complete workshop schedule and details, please visit: <http://www.sfu.ca/cnhr/avalanche/>

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