

## First-Year Law Student Teaches Ethics to Chinese Delegation

**TORONTO** – Omar Ha-Redeye, a law student at the University of Western Ontario, presented a seminar on ethical behaviour in disasters to a diplomatic delegation on Nov. 9, 2007.

The Chinese dignitaries were from China, and represented the [Commission of Science, Technology, and Industry for National Defense](#) (COSTIND). They were in Canada for one week, on a trip to meet with specialists in disaster management and learn from best practices here.

Mr. Ha-Redeye worked internationally in disaster and emergency management prior to starting law at the [University of Western Ontario](#) in September 2007. He shared an [ethical model](#) he developed in the review of successes and failures of major environmental and unnatural disasters.

The topics covered included the SARS epidemic in Canada, relief to families of Sept. 11, 2001, and the 2004 Tsunami in South-East Asia.

“In the study of ethics, there is no one single right course of action,” said Mr. Ha-Redeye. “What we try to do is present different ethical approaches, and try to reconcile competing needs in an emergent situation.”

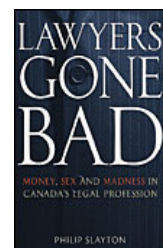
Mr. Ha-Redeye explained that in disasters and emergencies there is little time for extensive ethical analysis, requiring professionals to be at least be familiar with ethical theory. The model he presented could also be used in other fields, or in daily situations in life.

First-year law students study ethics in their Spring semester of law at the University of Western Ontario. Western students begin their first class of ethics on Feb. 13, 2008.

“Although I am familiar with ethical concepts, their application specifically to the field of law is something I look forward to,” said Ha-Redeye.

Discussion around ethical behaviour in the legal profession has increased in recent months following the release of a book by a former Dean of Western Law, [Phillip Slayton](#), entitled [Lawyers Gone Bad: Money, Sex and Madness in Canada's Legal Profession](#).

The training session was held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Toronto, and was hosted by the [Foundation for International Training](#) (FIT).



*Below: Omar Ha-Redeye offers a session on ethics in disasters to a diplomatic delegation from China (Photo Credit: Omar Ha-Redeye)*



## Notes

Western Law was featured in the current issue of the [CBA National magazine](#) for the legal study of ethics. Western was the first law school to offer a mandatory ethics class in Ontario, and the first to have a mandatory course in the first year.

Ethics is usually more uniformly required in other jurisdictions.