

CENTRE FOR KOREAN RESEARCH

The Centre for Korean Research is pleased to present:

“Inside North Korea”

**By Ambassador John V. Everard
British Ambassador to North Korea (2006-2008)**

**Friday, March 4th
3:30-5:00 pm**

Conference room #120, C.K. Choi Building
1855 West Mall



Abstract: North Korea attracts attention because of its terrible human rights abuses, because of the threat it poses to regional stability, and because of its bizarre rhetoric. John Everard, who served as British Ambassador to North Korea from 2006-2008, will show in his presentation that there is another side to North Korea - that it is a real country in which real people live, who are much more concerned with details of their everyday lives than with high politics or nuclear weapons. Illustrating his points with photographs from his own collection he will talk about family life, recreation, and the complex and hierarchical society of the country - one of the most conservative in Asia, and in many ways a political and social fossil almost untouched by the huge changes which have swept its neighbours.

But why is the DPRK such a strange place? John Everard will try to show that this is a result of an improbable combination of the circumstances of its accidental birth, of its inheritance of the deep conservatism of the last Korean dynasty, and of a Soviet decision to portray Kim Il Sung as a hero which developed into an extreme personality cult. He will end by discussing recent changes in the DPRK, and the challenges which the modern world presents to the regime.

Bio: John Everard was for 27 years a career British diplomat who served as Ambassador to Belarus, Uruguay and finally to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) from 2006-2008. He retired from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2008 and has since written and broadcast on North Korea. He is currently the Pantech Visiting Fellow at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center of Stanford University, where he is preparing a book on life inside North Korea