The seminar will take place on Monday, May 17th, 2010, at 11:45 am at the IDC Herzliya campus, Conference Hall. The lecture will be conducted in English.

Please see the full seminar schedule and a brief summary of the lecture at: www.idc.ac.il/lauderschoolseminar

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We look forward to seeing you there!
Invitation to the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy
Faculty Seminar

A lecture by:

Dr. Deborah Heifetz
Research fellow, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzlyia

On:
"Pakistan’s Non-Violent Development: Strategies for Intervention and Indigenous practices of conflict resolution"

Monday, May 17, 2010, 11:45 a.m., Faculty Club

Abstract
In April, 2007 HiMaT, a Pakistani-based and operated NGO that my husband and I created, began our intervention for poverty alleviation and rural development in the remote region of the Neelum Valley in Kashmir, Pakistan along the Indian-Pakistani disputed border. Although we encountered resistance by the local feudal lord and his henchmen and despite the presence of the terrorist group responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attack, Lashkar –e- Taiba - whose offices and training were next door to ours – our team succeeded to catalyze a process of social change and social mobilization among local women and men villagers from 7 different villages in the Valley. Our work was noticed by the AKDN (Aga Khan Development Network), who asked us to intervene in a more peaceful, homogeneous and remote region where they had been working for 30 years but with little economic recovery – an area called the Chipursan Valley along the Afgani and Chinese border. Since July 2008, we became actively involved in this intervention and are currently mobilizing and training community leaders to run their own rural municipality and develop economic sustainability. Simultaneously, and at a much slower pace, our work continues in Kashmir. My talk will discuss Himat’s intervention and subsequent encounters with local strategies for conflict resolution as part of an ongoing change process in community-led development that occurs differently in these two divergent areas. Experience and research in the field increasingly indicates that the capacity and methods to resolve and manage conflicts locally has three sites of impact. 1. It reproduces core community values and expresses its solidarity, a precondition for broad participation and engagement of the community 2. It is empowering. If you can’t resolve conflict, you can’t work together. To achieve broad-based community engagement for community-led development, community’s need conflict resolution structurally embedded into community life. 3. It is an important variable that strengthens communities to protect themselves against both radical and unwanted ideologies and potentially resist violent and primarily foreign perpetrators.

To the Seminar Homepage:  www.idc.ac.il/lauderschoolseminar
Seminar Coordinator: Dr. Eran Halperin – eran.halperin@idc.ac.il

The lecture will be conducted in English