

NEWS RELEASE

CANOEL ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(TSXV: CIL)

January 5, 2009- Calgary, Alberta – Canoel International Energy Ltd. ("Canoel" or the "Corporation") (TSX VENTURE: CIL) announces that the Board has appointed Andrea Cattaneo, one of the Corporation's Directors, as its Chief Operating Officer effective from January 1, 2009. José Ramón López-Portillo continues as Chief Executive Officer, Steve Paquin as the Corporation's Chief Financial Officer and James Grossman as Counsel to the Corporation.

Mr. Cattaneo has been for many years an energy consultant based in Genoa and London. He began his career in trading and subsequently moved into banking where he specialized in sovereign loans and trade finance with emerging countries, principally socialist countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia. He has thirty years experience in advising governments in financial and energy related matters. He presently serves as the Energy Coordinator of the Business Advisory Council to the Great Tumen Initiative, a project, sponsored by the United Nations Development Program, involving China, Mongolia, Russia, North Korea and South Korea. In a non-business capacity, in 2007 he organized in Genoa the first worldwide exhibition of artists from North Korea.

The TSX Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy and accuracy of the contents of this news release.

For further information, please contact:

José Ramón López-Portillo
Chief Executive Officer

Steve Paquin
Chief Financial Officer

Telephone: 403-629-9799

Telephone: 604-980-1066