

## Message from Jeff Sachs



### Big Things Have Happened, and More Big Things Are on Their Way

The Earth Institute did beautifully at the [Johannesburg Summit](#), where a number of our leading scientists organized a seminar on the relationship of science and sustainable development. A frequent commentary after our session by the audience was "best session of the whole conference."

I'll be presenting a paper on the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit to the Secretary-General and the heads of all UN agencies in late September.

We (the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction of the EI) are planning a major Washington event at the end of this month on the new El Niño, and its implications for a number of vulnerable parts of the world (Southeast Asia, the Andean region, Southern Africa).

The external Biosphere scientific Advisory Panel is taking shape with very high-level participation expected from across the country. We're still struggling to find an acceptable date for a meeting on the campus, and I'm continuing to push for an early date, no later than October certainly. It looks like this will be October 30. Hope to confirm soon.

The Gates Foundation has come through with a \$10 million grant through the Earth Institute and WHO to follow up on the report of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health which I chaired last year. Most of the money will go to the developing countries to fund their national follow-up commissions, and around \$1.5 million will come to us for our work.

George Soros came through with a very quick \$250K for early support of the new Center on Global Health and Economic Development. I will be speaking to a foundation gathering that he is organizing, where I'll be looking for multiples of that support!

Bill Moyers has agreed to host a major PBS show at Columbia on "The U.S. Role in the World." Details will evolve this fall.

## Sachs to Present His Vision of Sustainable Development in Earth Institute's Distinguished Lecture Series

On the heels of the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit, Jeffrey Sachs will be delivering a series of lectures titled "[Achieving Sustainable Development in the 21st Century](#)," where he will present his vision on sustainable development.

The first lecture is "Shaping Our Economic and Ecological Future" on September 25. Following is "Science and Sustainable Development" (on October 2), and "Global Governance and Our Common Fate" (on October 16).

This is part of the Earth Institute's fall "Distinguished Lecture Series." The lectures run from 4-6 p.m. at the Altschul Auditorium, School of International and Public Affairs, 118th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Admission is free, and seating is first come, first served.

## Sachs Invites Students to Get Involved

The Earth Institute will form its first Student Advisory Council this fall, which consists of students from many of Columbia's schools. Its goal is to introduce the greater Columbia community to the work of more than 800 Columbia scientists to enhance understanding and interest in Earth systems science and sustainable development. It will achieve this by gathering community input and developing seminars, workshops, film series, and other activities of interest to the student body, "If we fail to engage today's students -- tomorrow's decision makers -- in issues concerning the environment and sustainable development, the battle will be lost," said Jeffrey Sachs. Already planned for this fall are three panel discussions on topics including global climate change, the environmental and economic impact of an El Niño, and biodiversity preservation.

Also, students were invited to join Jeffrey Sachs for a [pizza party briefing](#) on Wednesday, September 25, following his Distinguished Lecture titled "Shaping our Economic and Ecological Future," as part of the Earth Institute's initiative to engage students in the sciences. Over 200 students participated.

## Earth Institute Scientists Attend World Summit

Amidst the politics and posturing at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in August, a Sunday morning seminar about the science of

## The Earth Institute Supports UN's Millennium Goals

### Columbia Experts Take on Roles at United Nations Project

Several Columbia scientists have been chosen as task force co-coordinators for the new Millennium Project, which strategizes on how to achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals for reducing poverty and disease in developing countries. The Project will be overseen by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Mark Malloch Brown.

The task force co-coordinators from Columbia are Jeffrey Sachs, Kwesi Botchwey, Roberto Lenton, Don Melnick, Allan Rosenfield, Josh Ruxin, and Elliot Sclar.

In addition, Roberta Miller, Bob Chen, and Marc Levy of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network will lead a mapping initiative.

John McArthur, project manager for the Millennium Project, explains, "The UN project will be carried out through ten task forces, thematically divided. Each task force has two co-coordinators, with one based close to New York and one based abroad, mainly in developing countries."

McArthur will have offices at both the United Nations Development program (UNDP) and the Earth Institute.



For more information on these goals please visit [www.developmentgoals.org](http://www.developmentgoals.org).

## Retreat Yields New Plans for Earth Institute

The Earth Institute's third annual retreat (July 24-25, 2002), led by Director Jeffrey Sachs, brought together EI's leadership -- the Provost of the University, deans and chairs from associated schools and departments, directors of units, co-chairs of the Earth Institute Academic Committee, and Earth Institute directorate staff -- to discuss its mission and strategies as EI enters a new phase of growth.

A draft of the mission statement was agreed upon, and it reads, "The Earth Institute at Columbia University is the world's leading academic center for the integrated study of Earth, the environment, and society. It builds

Two of our top scientists, Klaus Lackner and Wally Broecker, have organized a very high-level and impressive Carbon Roundtable to meet in October, to discuss the global future of fossil fuels. It's exactly the kind of big-think, high-level science-policy meeting that is needed and that the EI can help to foster.

We're putting on a [full fall schedule of events](#) for students, including several panel discussions by our leading scientists, seminars, workshops, etc., in order to engage students in earth sciences, environmental management, and sustainable development.

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## The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Hosts Annual Open House



The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory is hosting its annual open house -- a science exposition that features state-of-the-art technology and the latest scientific advances from 200 Columbia University earth scientists and researchers working to understand the mysteries of the Earth.

This year's open house -- on Saturday, October 5 from 10am-4pm -- examines the science and consequences behind El Niño, as Columbia researchers have forecasted with a high degree of certainty that this phenomenon will occur this season. In addition, visitors can explore exhibits on University research projects. Demonstrations, exhibits, interactive programs, and lectures are designed for viewers of all ages, and many of the laboratories will be open. For more information, visit <http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/OH2002>.

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## Comments and Suggestions

Contact our [editor](#)

## Past issues

sustainability received rave reviews from more than 150 policymakers, NGO representatives, and South Africa residents in attendance. Presented by The Earth Institute, the two hour update, much of it good news, featured scientists from Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO), Conservation and Environmental Research (CERC), the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI), and Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), lecturing about what exists and what is needed scientifically to achieve sustainable development around the globe.

The following Earth Institute scientists were part of the delegation sent to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in Sept. The delegation was led by EI's Director Jeff Sachs.

Roberto Lenton, Executive Director, Secretariat for International Affairs and Development - International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, The Earth Institute at Columbia University;

Klaus Lackner, Ewing Worzel Professor of Geophysics, Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering, The Earth Institute at Columbia University;

Jeffrey Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, Professor of Sustainable Development, Columbia University, and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan;

Pedro Sanchez, Visiting Professor of Tropical Resources, Environmental Science Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley, 2002 World Food Prize Laureate who will join the Earth Institute later this year;

Don Melnick, Executive Director, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, Columbia University;

John C. Mutter, Associate Vice Provost, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, Executive Deputy Director, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Columbia University.

Marc Levy, research scientist from the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, The Earth Institute at Columbia University.

upon excellence in the core disciplines -- earth sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences, social sciences, and health sciences -- and stresses cross-disciplinary approaches to complex problems. Through its own research and training and its global partnerships, it mobilizes science and technology to advance sustainable development, placing special emphasis on the needs of the world's poor."

Besides drafting a mission statement, the retreat resulted in a decision to build the Earth Institute on five specific core disciplines -- Earth Sciences, Ecology, Engineering, Health Sciences, and Social Sciences -- and encourage interdisciplinary research that focuses on solving today's pressing sustainable development issues. EI's research units will also organize around the five core disciplines.

The Earth Institute's research and teaching missions will organize around the core disciplines' corresponding [Ph.D. programs](#), with a new Ph.D. planned in the social sciences focused on sustainable development.

The Earth Institute will also pursue several Institute-wide projects in the coming year, including:

### 1. Twenty-first Century Cities Study on Sustainable Development.

With plans to focus initially on Accra, Ghana; Fortaleza, Brazil; Chennai, India; and New York City, the Earth Institute, with local colleagues, will study the intersection of environment and development to both better understand their interactions as well as to develop appropriate policy responses.

### 2. Earth Institute response to the impending El Niño.

The Earth Institute and IRI will identify where El Niño's impacts will likely be greatest, will provide socio-economic analysis of potential impacts, and will work with the international community on how to avoid and prepare for El Niño-related disasters.

### 3. UN Millennium Project.

Jeff Sachs is directing this project, whose purpose is to chart a course to help the world achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the international targets on poverty alleviation and environmental stability. Sachs plans to enhance the linkages between the work of the UN Millennium Project and that of the Earth Institute.

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## Education

### New Medical Ecology E-seminar Released

This month, Columbia Interactive is offering the fourth part of an eight-part e-seminar by Dickson Despommier entitled *Medical Ecology: Environmental Disturbance and Disease*. Despommier is professor of public health and microbiology at Columbia. This fourth e-seminar, called *Atmosphere: Problems at Ground Level*, uses state-of-the-art animation and imagery, text, and data to explain the atmosphere at Earth's surface and the consequences of polluting the air around us. For information on Despommier's entire medical ecology e-seminar series, you can visit

[http://ci.columbia.edu/ci/eseminars/1114\\_detail.html](http://ci.columbia.edu/ci/eseminars/1114_detail.html).