

## Message from Jeff Sachs



Real Video (5:00) 

Quicktime Video (5:00) 

In this 5-minute video presentation, Jeffrey Sachs discusses the first of the **21st Century Cities** initiative -- the coastal city of Accra, Ghana, a stable democracy that is experiencing rapid population growth but has not yet achieved sustainable development. The Earth Institute plans this June to take a cross-disciplinary leadership team of professionals from economics, energy, hydrology, public health and urban governance to work with counterparts in Accra.



One of the 21st Century Cities -- Accra, Ghana -- suffers growth challenges, but it also has resources and a government ready to try and address those problems. Pictured above is one of the challenges -- standing water from floods mixed with waste, which poses serious health risks to the population.

## El Niño Update: Disasters Made, Not Born

This year's El Niño event is about three-quarters over. IRI forecasts were quite useful this year, with abnormally dry or wet weather reflecting the forecasts generated by IRI's climate models. [\[Click here\]](#) to view a map illustrating El Niño projections for 2002-03. Forecasters Tony Barnston and Chet Ropelewski recapped some of this season's El Niño effects: Uruguay, northern Argentina, and southeastern Brazil have had many

## In the News

### Jeffrey Sachs Speaks on President George Bush's Pledge of \$15Bn to Fight AIDS

Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, was interviewed by and quoted in over 15 publications on the Bush Administration's pledge of financial support to combat AIDS and the future of the Global Health Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria: [view all on-line news links](#)

### The Westchester Journal News, February 18, 2003

Tony Barnston, of the Earth Institute's International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, explains how El Niño contributed to the New York region's recent storm -- the fourth worst in New York City's history: [more](#)

### Silicon Valley Biz Ink, February 10, 2003

Computationally intensive climate forecasting models done at IRI indicate El Niño conditions are expected to continue through February and then weaken or dissipate between March and June: [more](#)

### Independent Digital, February 10, 2003

New research by Dr. Richard Seager of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and his colleagues shows that the Gulf Stream has little effect on the contrast in winter temperatures between Europe and eastern North America, dispelling a long-held assumption. A paper on the study was published in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society: [more](#)

### Space.com, February 4, 2003

An in-depth feature on a recent scientific paper by Dallas Abbott of the Earth Institute's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory discusses how comet and meteor impacts have triggered volcanic activity: [more](#)

## Jeffrey Sachs Encourages Developed World to Match US AIDS Spending in Africa

Impressed by President George W. Bush's State of the Union announcement to increase AIDS spending in Africa, Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs encourages Japan, Europe, and other developed countries to match the US's investment of \$15Bn over five years. According to Sachs, any investment towards fighting AIDS, including the one pledged by President Bush, should be put into the Global Fund, the most efficient and accountable way to fight AIDS. Sachs worked with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on creating the Global Fund as a multi-lateral approach to solving the AIDS pandemic.

## Events

**Professor Jeffrey Sachs Lecture: "Fighting AIDS"**  
**Thursday, February 27, 4:15 - 6:00PM, Altschul Auditorium, 417 School of International and Public Affairs Building** In this special lecture, Professor Sachs discusses the important steps and most effective ways to allocate resources in the global fight against AIDS.

### The Center for the Study of Science and Religion (CSSR) 2003 Seminar Series

**Tuesday March 4, 5:30-7pm, Davis Auditorium**  
 "Degrees of Freedom" with Dr. Piet Hut.

### The Theater of Ideas - Frontiers of Science Lecture Series

**Monday, March 3, 8pm, Miller Theater, Free with Columbia ID**  
 "Darwin, Mendel, and the Diversity of Life" with Dr. Don J. Melnick, Professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.

### Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Public Lecture Series

**Sunday, March 2, 3pm, Monell Building Auditorium** "Exploring the Hudson & Finding Sunken Treasures" with Dr. Robin Bell.

**Sunday, March 30, 3pm, Monell Building Auditorium** "Plumbing the Depths: Volcanoes as Windows into the Deep Earth," with Professor Marc Spiegelman.

### 21st Century Cities Seminar Series

**Monday, March 3, 5-6:30pm, 405 Low Library** "The Informal Economy," Professor Susan Fainstein, Department of Urban Planning.

**Monday, March 10, 5-6:30pm, 405 Low Library** "Water and the Urban Environment," Professor Upmanu Lall, Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering.

For more information, please send an email to [cievents@columbia.edu](mailto:cievents@columbia.edu).

## Earth Institute One-Day Retreat Kicks Off Strategic Planning Process

Columbia President Lee Bollinger has requested that the Earth Institute provide him with a 10-year strategic plan by June 30, 2003. To kick off the strategic planning process, the Earth Institute Academic Committee held a one-day lecture retreat on Saturday, February 15. The retreat focused on the likely cross-disciplinary themes -- climate change and climate variability, water, energy,

months of above average rainfall, while much of Central America has been quite dry, as predicted by the IRI's climate models. "The bottom dropped out" of Southern India's monsoon in July, while Indonesia and southern Africa have also been very dry. [more](#)

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### Summer Research Internships Pairing Students With Scientists

Columbia University students interested in spending their summer doing a research internship at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) can now apply for a new program that will pair students with Earth Institute and LDEO scientists from , who will serve as their research mentors. Students can work on a variety of projects, from paleoecology to international environmental policy. [more info](#)

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### Columbia University Awarded \$2.9 Million to Train Next Generation of Elite Scientists

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded The Earth Institute at Columbia University a \$2.9 million grant to establish an Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) program. Through this new IGERT program, Columbia will bring together applied mathematicians and earth and environmental scientists and engineers to train a new generation of Ph.D. students with the skills required to address global-scale problems at the interface of earth science and mathematics. [more](#)

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### Comments and Suggestions

Contact our [editor](#)

### Past issues

[Real Video](#) (7:06) 

[Quicktime Video](#) (7:06) 

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### Earth Institute Visiting Fellow Reaches Out Dr. Stephen Leeder to explore chronic, non-communicable diseases in the life of poorer countries



As a Visiting Senior Research Fellow based at the Earth Institute's new Center for Global Health and Development (CGHD), **Stephen Leeder** has some grand goals for his year at the Earth Institute. The former Dean of Medicine at the University of Sydney hopes to "shift how public health is conceived in the U.S." Dr. Leeder's work focuses on a the set of sources of poor countries' "burden of illness" that includes heart disease and respiratory conditions, cancer and mental health. These are diseases, Leeder points out, which can be influenced by public policy focusing on such issues as nutrition, tobacco, and air quality standards, as well as urban planning issues. [more](#)

ecosystems, health and environment/health and development, food, agriculture, and hunger, markets and the environment, environmental decision making, and science policy -- that the Earth Institute's units will work together to advance in the coming years. Professor Jeffrey Sachs said, "The lectures offered a successful start to the strategic planning process, and I look forward to working with the Academic Committee and the Earth Institute community in the coming months on the many other issues to be considered in the strategic plan, such as the needs of the core basic sciences, as well as infrastructure and fundraising needs."

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### Prizes and Awards

**Dr. Pedro Sanchez**, Director of Tropical Agriculture at The Earth Institute has been chosen as an honoree to appear in a commemorative book published by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. [more](#)

**Dr. Mark A. Cane**, G. Unger Vetlesen Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, was awarded the Robert L. and Bettie P. Cody Award in Ocean Sciences from Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. [more](#)

**Dr. Taro Takahashi**, Associate Director of Geochemistry at Lamont-Doherty, Adjunct Professor and Doherty Senior Scholar, has been chosen as a Fellow of American Geophysical Union (AGU). AGU members who are selected as fellows have attained an acknowledged eminence in a branch of the geophysical sciences. The number of fellows selected annually is limited to no more than 0.1% of the AGU membership.

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