Message from Jeff Sachs

Real Video (11:30)

Quicktime Video (11:30)

In this eleven-minute video, Jeffrey Sachs discusses developments within key EI initiatives, like the arrival of the first twelve Earth Institute Fellows late in the summer. Jeff also elaborates on the plan for the first major visit of Earth Institute experts in June to Accra, Ghana, which is one of the 21st-Century Citites place-based research sites. In addition, Jeff outlines the Center for Global Health and Economic Development's trip to Rwanda, where they have been working on the Access Project, which is funded by the Glaser Progress Foundation. And finally, Jeff discusses the Earth Institute's strategic plan, which is moving into its final stages of development.

DNA From Dung -- CERC Researchers Develop Non-Invasive Techniques For Studying Wild Animal Populations

Scientists from the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), a unit of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, have developed non-invasive collection, extraction, and amplification protocols providing high quality DNA from an animal's dung. The DNA is targeted from cells sloughed from the gut lining. Their research techniques, publishing in the *Journal of Heredity*, will enable a broad application of genetic

Weapons of Mass Salvation: There is a Plan
Earth Institute Presents Symposium on Millennium Project to Cut Poverty in Half by 2015

To fight global poverty, one must fight malnutrition, disease, trade barriers, and a host of other problems. On Tuesday, April 29th, the Earth Institute will present a symposium to introduce the poverty-fighting Millennium Project and leaders from its ten task forces. more info

Prestigious Panel of Researchers, Leaders, and Activists to Advise on Ten-Year Vision for The Earth Institute

On April 28-29th, members of The Earth Institute's External Advisory Board, which includes an impressive range of global view thinkers and leaders such as philanthropist George Soros, Professor Edward O. Wilson, and musician/activist Bono, will convene for in-depth discussions on major initiatives within The Earth Institute. more

In the News

The Journal News, March 28, 2003
Featured is an article on major scientific achievements of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory: more

The Telegraph (UK), April 8, 2003
Richard Wilson, a researcher with the Goddard Institute for Space Studies and the Earth Institute, was interviewed on his research on solar radiation: more

United Nations Advisor, April 6, 2003
Jeffrey Sachs speaks about the need to achieve low mortality and fertility rates in developing countries as a central pillar to achieving sustainable development: more

Special Events at The Earth Institute

Professor Sig Grava,"Accra: The Unconventional City," Monday, April 21st, 5pm, Sindeband East Seminar Room, CEPSR. Part of the Earth Institute's 21st Century Cities Seminar Series. more info

Panel Discussion: "Market Mechanisms to Protect the Environment," Thursday, April 24th, 6-7pm, Satow Room, Fifth Floor, Alfred Lerner Hall. Admission: Open to the public, free. Participants include **Geoffrey Heal**, Garret Professor of Public Policy and Business Responsibility, and author of *Environmental Markets and Nature and the Marketplace*; **Arthur Small**, Assistant Professor, School of International and Public Affairs; **Carlos Quintela**, Conservation Finance, Wildlife Conservation Society; **David Hircock**, Herbalist and Representative to UN Forum on Indigenous Peoples. see calendar for more info

Bill Ruddiman, LDEO Alumnus and Professor Emeritus, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia,**"Farms, Plagues, and Climate,"** Sunday, April 27, 3pm, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Palisades Campus, Monell Building. Admission: Open to the public, free. see calendar for more info

Poul Nielson, European Union Commissioner **"Accelerating the Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria: A European Union Perspective,"** Monday, April 28, 4:30pm, Faculty Room, Low Library, Columbia University, 116th Street and Broadway. Admission: Open to the public, free. see calendar for more info

The Millennium Development Goals Symposium, Tuesday, April 29,
2-5:30pm, Columbia University, Lecture Hall, School of Journalism. Admission: **Free and open to the public, but advance registration is required.** Participants include **Jeffrey Sachs**, Earth Institute Director and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Project; **Mark Malloch Brown**, the United Nations Development Program Administrator; and **representatives of all ten UN Millennium Development Project task forces**. more info

Klaus Lackner, "Energy's Role in Sustainable Development," Thursday,
May 1, 4pm, Davis Auditorium, Schapiro, CEPSR. Admission: Open to the public, free. Energy guru Klaus Lackner, a founder of the Zero Emissions Coal Alliance, contends that a transition to hydrogen-based fuels by

analysis, particularly with regard to endangered, elusive, or aggressive species. more

Prizes and Awards

Gad Soffer, a second-year doctoral student in Columbia University's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, was chosen as a 2003 Paul and Daisy Soros New American Fellow. Soffer 's primary scientific interest is in understanding and conceptualizing the history of the earth's crustal growth. more

Nili Harnik, an atmospheric scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, has been awarded this year's Storke-Doherty Lectureship. Harnik specializes in the structure and variability of stratospheric planetary waves and the interaction of the stratosphere with the North Atlantic Oscillation - Arctic Oscillation. The lectureship is awarded annually to an outstanding young scientist on the Observatory's staff. more

Comments and Suggestions

Contact our editor

Past issues

Ascribe Newswire, March 31, 2003
Jeffrey D. Sachs delivered the keynote address at the Fulbright Conference, which examine U.S. role in global health: more

How Should Scientists and Policy Makers Best Respond to El Niño?

The American Meteorological Society and the Earth Institute are organizing a two-day conference on climate variability, to be held on Wednesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 24, with a special focus on El Niño.

El Niño, the climate event caused by the periodic warming of tropical Pacific Ocean waters, has tremendous effects on lives, property and the economy. The Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI), a unit of the Earth Institute, has been tracking this year's El Niño internationally, and studying preparation and response. In 1997-98, storm losses due to El Niño reached $1.1 billion in California; the US total loss has been estimated at $25 billion. more

itself does not solve the greenhouse gas problem. Lackner advocates capture of carbon from the air in order to control the effect of emissions on the atmosphere. see calendar for more info

On the Web

Twenty Columbia University undergraduates joined Lamont's Dr. Nicholas Christie-Blick this month on his annual geology field trip to Death Valley, which has world-class examples of extrusive igneous rocks, extensional faults, and fossiliferous carbonate sediments. more