

Message from Jeff Sachs



[Real Video](#) (8:09)

[Quicktime Video](#) (8:09)

In this 8-minute address, Earth Institute Director Jeff Sachs outlines his recent trip through Uganda and Kenya with CIESIN director Roberta Miller, the Earth Institute's Director of Tropical Agriculture Pedro Sanchez, and Cheryl Palm, a senior researcher for CERC and IRI. He also discusses CIESIN's global poverty mapping project, and gives a progress report on the development of the Earth Institute's strategic plan.

The Open GIS Consortium Elects CIESIN's Roberta Miller to Board Of Directors

Roberta Miller, Director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), has been elected to the board of directors of The Open GIS Consortium. OGC is an international industry consortium of more than 240 companies, government agencies and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available interface specifications. [more](#)

The Earth Institute Selects 12 Fellows to Address Emerging Needs for Sustainable Development

Columbia University has accepted 12 Earth Institute Fellows from 250 applicants for postdoctoral training in sustainable development, starting in 2003.

With Ph.D.'s from institutions around the world, the finalists represent fields ranging from meteorology to social sciences, pursuing a range of applied research, including:

- the public health effects of climate change
- testing new approaches to setting manageable

The Earth Institute In the News

United Press International, March 20, 2003

Environmentalists focus on post-war plan: [more](#)

The Daily Times (Pakistan), March 19, 2003

UNICEF negotiating \$35m loan for arsenic mitigation in Bangladesh: [more](#)

The Daily News (Los Angeles), March 15, 2003

Impacts and lava may have joined to kill dinosaurs: [more](#)

GhanaWeb, February 27, 2003

Earth Institute invited to investigate urban challenges of Accra: [more](#)

Columbia University Students Publish First Natural Hazards And Disaster Mitigation Framework For Earthquake And Flood Prone City Of Caracas



Living near the seismically active intersection of two tectonic plates, and nestled against the steep slopes of young mountain ranges, the population of Caracas, Venezuela and surrounding regions is at great risk from severe earthquake, landslide, and flooding hazards. Recently published in the American Geophysical Union's journal EOS is an analysis of how to build disaster resilience into this Venezuelan capital region. The authors of the paper, Kevin Vranes and Kristina Czuchlewski, are Columbia University students participating in a unique academic program that combines research in natural hazards with urban planning and policy studies. [more](#)

Six Latin American Conservationists Selected In Launch of \$500,000 Overbrook Fellowship

Events

Jeff Sachs, "Long-Term Perspectives of Economic Development in the Islamic Middle East," Tuesday, April 1st 5:30pm, Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR
Admission: All, Free, Refreshments will be served. [more info](#)

Biodiversity on the Brink: "Challenges in Science and Policy The Mekong River," Tuesday, April 1st 6pm, Dag Lounge

Speakers Eleanor Sterling, Josh Ginsberg, and Don Melnick will discuss the natural wealth along the Mekong and the challenges of unifying human welfare, economic development, and biodiversity conservation. [more info](#)

Pedro Sanchez: "Eliminating Hunger in Africa: What Needs to be Done"

Tuesday, April 8th, 4-5:30pm, Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR
In this talk, Sanchez reflects on his recent trip to East Africa, and the many possible ways to increase global food security using a wide range of solutions. [more info](#)

CERC's Don Melnick, "Nature in the Middle: A Self-Centered Argument for Biodiversity Conservation," Saturday April 12th, 10:45am at Alfred Lerner Hall
CERC's Don Melnick will give a talk on "Nature in the Middle: A Self-Centered Argument for Biodiversity Conservation." [more info](#)

Seating for all events is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more event information, please email us at eievents@ideo.columbia.edu

On the Web



Dr. Arnold L. Gordon, of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, is aboard the Research Vessel Nathaniel B. Palmer (pictured above) in Antarctic's northwestern Ross Sea. This research, part of a multi-expedition project called AnSlope, seeks to unravel the dynamics of cold water transport into the intermediate and deep

conservation priorities

- assessing nitrogen fluxes in African farmlands
- mitigating infrastructure losses from natural hazards
- integrating malaria control in developing countries

They were selected for their scholarly achievements and commitment to pursue and communicate interdisciplinary solutions within the Institute's core disciplines, earth sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences, social sciences or health sciences. These young researchers will investigate how to conserve the Earth's natural resources in the face of increasing demands for food, shelter, safety, sanitation, energy, health services, and economic security, especially for the poor. [more](#)



The Center for Environmental Conservation and Research (CERC), headquartered at the Earth Institute of Columbia University, and The Overbrook Foundation, New York, have announced the selection of the first six Overbrook Fellows, part of a new five year program to build local capacity for addressing problems of biodiversity conservation within Latin American countries with high or unique biodiversity. [more](#)

layers of the deep ocean. [more](#)

Center for Hazards and Risk to Collaborate With Oslo Group on Multi-Hazard Study

The Center for Hazards and Risks Research has formed a new collaboration with the Oslo-based Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) for interdisciplinary studies of natural hazards and their implications for society.

As an initial activity under the collaboration, NGI is taking the lead on a global assessment of landslide risks in collaboration with a CHRR initiative on Identification of Global Natural Disaster Risk Hotspots, a project sponsored by the World Bank and involving many Earth Institute experts. [more](#)

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