

Message from Jeff Sachs

Real Video (7:32) 

Quicktime Video (7:32) 

In this post-State of the Planet message, Jeff Sachs describes the purpose of working toward the State of the Planet consensus statement: "In my view, there is an urgent need to communicate with the public and help to explain where there is consensus, and where are there doubts about the issues of sustainable development."

He adds, "The public has very little access to reliable information if they're not reading the scientific journals. All of the panelists thought it was important to convey with precision the major challenges in the areas of food, water, energy, and health, and I think they did a beautiful job."

Jeff called the event, "A celebration of the sciences at the Earth Institute, a celebration of Columbia's incredible reach on issues of sustainable development, and a celebration on what the science and policy communities can add to the challenges that we're dedicated to addressing at the Earth Institute."

(Please visit our [State of the Planet website](#) to see or hear any part of the conference.)

"This really was quite a remarkable event," Jeff said.

He also emphasized the importance of the upcoming climate change symposium hosted at Columbia University called "Taming the Climate," which takes place on April 22 and 23. "This is an opportunity to look in-depth at the specific issues of long-term climate change, and the lessons that our paleontologists have shown about the risks of abrupt climate change and the issues of new energy systems to mitigate or avert some of the great risks that lie ahead."

In the News**The Rockland Journal News -- April 1, 2004**

An article about rising sea levels due to climate change quotes Cynthia Rosenzweig, senior research scientist at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, part of the Earth Institute, and Klaus Jacob, a research scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

Nature -- March 31, 2004

A new study into the effects of pollution by Beate Liepert, scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and her colleagues suggests that global warming could lead to drier days.

The Columbia Spectator -- March 31, 2004

Coverage of the Earth Institute's recent State of the Planet conference reflects the importance of informing policy makers and the public about climate change.

The Roxborough Review (Philadelphia) -- March 24, 2004

An editorial about the greatest mass extinction in the history of the Earth quotes Paul Olsen, Arthur D. Storke Memorial Professor at the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Columbia University, and scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, part of the Earth Institute.

The Rockland Journal News -- March 18, 2004

This editorial about Rockland County's water problem quotes Nicholas Christie-Blick, researcher at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and professor at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University.

The Rockland Journal News -- March 14, 2004

Research by Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory scientists was referenced and Robin Bell, Doherty Senior Research Scientist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, was quoted in this article on Hudson River conservation.

[more recently in the media](#)

**Columbia 250 Hosts Symposium on the Earth's Future: Taming the Climate**

Changes in the Earth's climate can have dramatically adverse effects upon the habitability of our planet, and yet little is being done to prepare for or prevent such impacts. As part of the celebration of its 250th anniversary, Columbia University will convene a day-and-a-half symposium on April 22 and 23 that brings together leading scientists, economists and policy makers to address the question of why we are doing so little to prepare for, or slow climate change and what prevents us from taking action. In a combination of compelling lectures and lively panel discussions, participants will work together to develop recommendations for international action. [more](#)



Scientists and Experts Determine Best Practices to Reduce Extreme Poverty while Ensuring a Healthy State of the Planet
State of the Planet 2004 Conference featured human rights specialist Mary Robinson



Columbia-supported HIV/AIDS Initiative in Rwanda Gains Speed Country moves to large scale treatment and care for thousands

Ten years after the genocide in Rwanda, The Earth Institute is working closely with the Government of Rwanda and its partners to expand what is rapidly becoming one of the most successful HIV/AIDS initiatives on the continent. The Earth Institute at Columbia and the Mailman School of Public Health are supporting this initiative jointly. [more](#)



Kenyan AIDS Orphans Pass National Exam with the Help of School Lunch Earth Institute scientist champions school lunch as one way to fight global poverty

Earlier this month a remarkable thing happened: all the 33 pupils from a primary school in Kenya who sat for the national exams passed. More remarkable still, half of the winners are AIDS orphans. The headmistress attributed this amazing success in part to the school lunch program she initiated through voluntary contributions of farmers in the community. [more](#)

World Bank and Donors Must Change to Achieve MDGs, Says Jeffrey Sachs Rich Countries Not Delivering on Funding for UN Millennium Development Goals

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing global poverty by half by 2015 is possible, but only if the World Bank and the donor community change the way they do business, says Jeff Sachs, director of the Earth Institute and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. Sachs delivered a candid address to World Bank staff on March 1st during the opening session of the institution's Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (ESSD) Week. [more](#)

Comments and Suggestions

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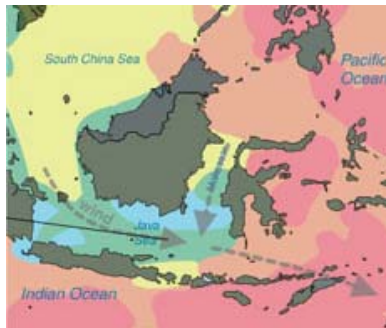


Environmental Career Fair Introduces Students to Hundreds of Possible Futures

Louise Rosen, (above, left) talks with SIPA student Hetal Mehta, graduate student in the MPA program in environmental science and policy, at the first ever Yale, Cornell and Columbia Environmental Career fair held in the Low Library Rotunda. Over 250 students from Yale, Cornell, and Columbia University interacted with 41 exhibitors from the the public and private sector at this event orchestrated by Rosen, who is director of student programs at the Earth Institute's Office of Educational Programs and Assistant Director, MPA Environmental Science and Policy at SIPA.

Are Earthquakes Related? Columbia Scientists Greatly Reduce Error in Locating Earthquakes in China, Discovering a Surprising Number are Close to Each Other

Seismologists David P. Schaff and Paul G. Richards, from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory have developed a method that increases scientists' ability to pinpoint an earthquake's epicenter, resulting in new findings in earthquake patterns in China. [more](#)



New On the Web: Indonesian Throughflow Flash Animation

In 2003, Arnold Gordon, R. Dwi Susanto, and Kevin Vranes, researchers at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, presented evidence that the Indonesian Throughflow (ITF) was not as warm as previously thought. ([read more](#)) According to Gordon, present climate models do a poor job of simulating ITF, which greatly impacts climate predictions. Ravi Rajakumar, the Earth Institute webmaster, has worked with Gordon to create an animation that illustrates the complexity of this phenomenon. [view animation](#)

Engineers, ecologists, medical doctors, scientists and policymakers at The Earth Institute's biannual conference resolved that rich nations must be responsible for helping the poorest parts of the world shift into healthy economies, not only because it is morally right, but because the planet is headed toward catastrophe on the current path.

"The central problem of this century is to raise the poor to an enduring standard of living without wrecking the planet," said E.O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Professor of Zoology at Harvard University and recipient of the National Medal of Science and the Pulitzer Prize in Literature. "Fortunately this problem can be solved; the resources exist, the cost isn't high, and the benefits are beyond calculation." Wilson added that our civilization will be remembered "not only for what we created, but what we refused to destroy." [more](#)

- [video/audio of entire event](#)
- [read consensus statement](#)
- [read highlights from Day 1 speakers](#)

Heart Disease and Stroke Hit Younger In Developing Countries; Report Launch on April 26th Toll rises as treatment and prevention lags in developing countries

A new report to be released at Columbia University's Earth Institute on Monday, April 26, 2004, suggests that heart disease and stroke are far more urgent threats to global health than commonly appreciated. They are causing hundreds of thousands of deaths each year in young people of productive age. This is far greater than has previously been understood, disrupting families and the work force in developing countries. The report is being launched at an event on April 26th in Davis Auditorium at Columbia University. [more](#)

Energy, Water and New York Economic Growth April 20 workshop to identify planning and research agenda

Energy and water are inextricably linked, and economic growth of the region depends on both. Cooling water for thermo-electric power plants now accounts nationally for 38% of all water withdrawals in the United States. Yet historically, energy and water issues have been planned for separately. The Earth Institute at Columbia, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) are holding a **New York Regional Energy-Water Workshop** on April 20, 2004, at Columbia University's Alfred Lerner Hall to discuss issues related to these two critical resources. [more](#)

Earth Institute Events Calendar

04/18:

[Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Spring 2004 Public Lectures Series: Dr. Daniel J. Fornari, "Revealing the Deep: Science and Engineering in Deep Ocean Exploration"](#)

04/20:

[New York Regional Energy-Water Workshop](#)

04/22-04/23:

[The Earth's Future: Taming the Climate](#)

04/26:

[A Race Against Time: the challenge of cardiovascular disease in developing economies](#)

Past issues

For more events, please visit [our full events calendar](#).

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