

Message from Jeffrey D. Sachs



Real Video (8:55)

Quicktime Video (8:55)

2005 will be the year when issues of climate and poverty come together, especially at the G8 summit, says Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of The Earth Institute, in this newsletter address. Sachs discusses his visit to Koraro, Ethiopia — which was selected to be the second Millennium Village — where people are clinging to survival because of an extended drought. Experts at the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, especially the work of research scientist Alessandra Giannini, have shown that this extended drought correlates with the warming of sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean. "2005 is shaping up to be a very important year with opportunities to make real advances on some of the core themes of the Earth Institute," says Sachs.



Sachs to World Bank Staff: MDGs are Achievable

Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University and Special Advisor to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, told World Bank Group staff on March 22 that 2005 is a "pivotal year" for development,

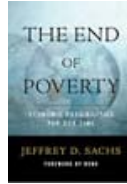
In the News

Multiple Hazards Loom in Coastal Areas

Some 70 percent of the world's population is at risk for drought and 82 percent is in areas that are subject to flooding, according to a report issued by The Earth Institute and the World Bank. *The New York Times*, *ABC News*, *CNN*, *The Los Angeles Times* (subscription), and *MSNBC*

The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time

Jeffrey D. Sachs writes a realistic blueprint for worldwide economic success. [more](#)



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- [Jeffrey D. Sachs answers questions about his book](#)

Alms For the Poor — A Clear Remedy For Winning the War on Global Poverty

Jeffrey D. Sachs's chosen weapons of mass salvation include anti-AIDS drugs, mosquito nets and wells for safe drinking water. And therein lies the key to Sachs's vision: the technologies are known and the strategies proved; what is needed is simply the political and financial will to implement them. *From Newsweek, March 28, 2005*

It Is Time to Free the World Bank

by Jeffrey D. Sachs

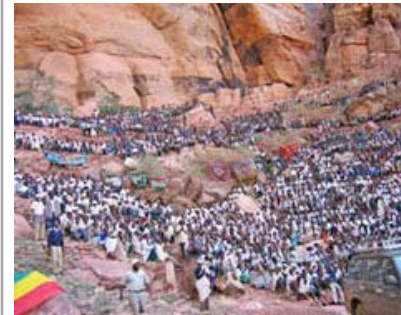
If the World Bank is to be a leading force in the promotion of good governance in developing countries, its own governance must move beyond backroom politics. [download pdf of Financial Times article](#)

- CNN -- March 21, 2005**
- BBC -- March 17, 2005**
- Reuters -- March 16, 2005**
- ABC News -- March 16, 2005**
- Bloomberg News -- March 16, 2005**
- CBC News -- March 16, 2005**

"It's a very surprising and, in many ways, inappropriate nomination," said Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of The Earth Institute. "We need an individual with international experience in the fight against poverty and global trust. Mr. Wolfowitz does not fit those criteria."

Oceans Didn't Trigger Last Ice Age, Research Suggests

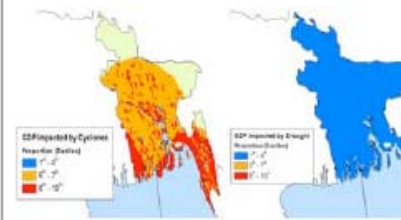
Research by scientists at The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory on isotopes preserved in deep sediment shows that climate may have changed before ocean



Koraro, Ethiopia, Chosen as Next Millennium Village

New website reports science-based interventions in two of Africa's poorest villages

The Millennium Villages Project, based at The Earth Institute at Columbia University, is a new bottom-up approach to lifting developing-country villages out of the poverty trap that afflicts more than a billion people worldwide. [visit the Millennium Villages Project website](#)



Cyclones

Droughts

Risk Analysis Reports Over Half of World's Population Exposed to One or More Major Natural Hazards

With help from Earth Institute scientists, The World Bank has published a report entitled, "Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis," that presents a global view of disaster risks associated with some major natural hazards such as drought, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides. The report identifies high-risk geographic regions so that development efforts can be better informed and designed to reduce disaster-related losses in the future. [more](#)

Presidential Management Fellows

"the last chance we have to get the Millennium Development Goals on track." This address was also broadcast on C-SPAN. [Read more](#) · [Watch video](#)

First Marie Tharp Fellowships Awarded

The ADVANCE Program of The Earth Institute at Columbia University has awarded its first Marie Tharp Fellowships to three women scientists whose research includes studies of southern hemisphere atmospheric circulation, thermochronology and tropical resources. The fellows will spend 1-3 months working alongside Earth Institute research scientists, faculty and post-doctoral students. [more](#)



The Growing Urbanization of the World

GRUMP mapping project finds urban areas increasing in surprising ways

The majority of the world's population will soon live in urban rather than rural areas. Adding a spatial dimension to population estimates, a new study finds that as much as three percent of the Earth's land area has already been urbanized, which is double previous estimates. This new data collection, known as the Global Rural Urban Mapping Project (GRUMP), has provided the basis for a number of important insights not previously known. This project is led by the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), part of The Earth Institute. [more](#)

CERC Helps Environmental Journalists Understand Changing Science

In an effort to inform the public of the ever-greater demand on the world's natural resources — costs of which run into the tens or hundreds of billions of dollars annually — CERC, the New York Times Foundation and Nurture New York's Nature hosted a week-long intensive program for journalists, presenting tools to interpret and report on sometimes-conflicting scientific information about leading environmental issues. [more](#)



Earth Institute Launches New York Area Climate Change Information Portal

Can local planners use data to prevent disaster?
On Tuesday, March 29, 2005, The Center for

circulation did, ruling out a slowing of heat-carrying ocean currents as the immediate cause of glaciation. *From Science magazine, March 25, 2005*

Airborne Soot Adds to Arctic Melting, Study Finds

"Soot is a particular concern in the Arctic because it can accelerate the melting of the ice and snow," said Dorothy Koch, researcher at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. "The standard knowledge has always been that most of it comes from Northern Europe and Asia. We were surprised to find that much of it comes from farther south." *From the Los Angeles Times, March 24, 2005, and MSNBC, March 28, 2005*

Cities Cover More of Earth Than Realized

"We know that this is an undercount, because the poorest countries have urban areas that were either hard to detect with the satellite or have weak census-taking," said Deborah Balk of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN). "This method is novel and a huge improvement over previous databases. It's not perfect, but it's an important achievement." *From Live Science.com, March 11, 2005*

The Boston Globe -- March 15, 2005

"There's steel dust generated anytime you hear the [subway] train go around the corner," said Steve Chillrud, a research scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. "And it's in a constrained area with relatively poor ventilation." Chillrud is in the early stages of studying whether exposure to the metals poses any genuine threat to subway workers' well-being.

National Geographic -- March 13, 2005

While the Millennium Project report on hunger demonstrates that the goal is achievable, Pedro Sanchez, director of Tropical Agriculture at The Earth Institute in New York and co-chair of the project's Hunger Task Force, says "It's not going to happen unless the world comes to grips with this politically."

Newsweek -- March 14, 2005

Last week a study in the journal Nature concluded that malaria has become far worse than the WHO and other health organizations had thought. Malaria could be effectively thwarted with about \$3 billion worth of low-tech measures — bed nets, judicious use of pesticides like DDT and other steps, says Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

The Rockland Journal News -- March 13, 2005

Despite numerous expeditions, scientists have barely scratched the surface of the vast ocean floor. "It's the last great frontier of our world that hasn't been explored," said Maya Tolstoy, a marine researcher at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Less than 1 percent of the deep ocean floor has even been seen.

PhysOrg.com -- March 9, 2005

"Models of Titan's atmosphere have indicated that it should super-rotate just like the atmosphere of Venus, but until now there have been no direct wind measurements to test the prediction," said Cassini imaging team member Tony Del Genio of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, part of the Earth Institute. DelGenio made the first computer simulation predicting Titan super-rotation a decade ago.

The Columbia Spectator -- March 7, 2005

The Earth Institute's new internship program matches students with paid and unpaid internships ranging from work in environmental engineering to participation in the New York City Department of Environmental Protection task force.

[more recently in the media](#)

Program Selects Six Environmental Science and Policy MPA Students as Finalists

While the Environmental Science and Policy program may be one of the smaller MPA programs at Columbia University, an impressive number of its students qualified as finalists for the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) program this March. The MPA program in environmental science and policy is a joint project of SIPA and The Earth Institute at Columbia University. [more](#)



Damaged Forests Might Be Better Left to Mother Nature's Devices

Since 1999 Christina Rumbaitis-del Rio, an Earth Institute fellow, has been studying the ability of forests to recover after a natural event, such as a forest fire, and how salvage logging, a practice that clears felled trees, affects the overall resilience of a coniferous forest. [more](#)

April Events at The Earth Institute

[Book Tour Dates for Jeffrey D. Sachs' "The End of Poverty"](#)

EVENT -- Thurs., April 7, 4-6pm

[Food Crises and the Role of Agriculture — Past and Present \(Earth Institute Cross-Cutting Initiatives Seminar\)](#)

EVENT -- Thurs., April 7, 6-8pm

[Critical Lectures in American Foreign Policy: America and Islamic Revivalism in the Gulf](#)

EVENT -- Fri., April 8, 10am-3pm

[Ivy League Environmental Career Fair](#)

EVENT -- Thurs., April 14, 4-6pm

[Nutrition - A Cornerstone for Human Health and Productivity \(Earth Institute Cross-Cutting Initiatives Seminar\)](#)

EVENT -- Mon., April 18, 5-7pm

[Making a Home in the City — Transport and Land Use Planning for Sustainable Urban Development](#)

EVENT -- Thurs., April 21, 4-6pm

[The Value Basis of Environmental Problems and the Ethical Dimension of Environmental Policy \(Earth Institute Cross-Cutting Initiatives Seminar\)](#)

International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at The Earth Institute at Columbia University launched a new web portal providing comprehensive information on climate change in the New York Metropolitan area. [more](#)

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Past issues

Future of Coal Depends on CO² Disposal Says Earth Institute Scientist at Senate Conference

On March 10, Klaus Lackner, a geophysicist with The Earth Institute, testified at the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coal Conference that the future of coal depends upon long-term capture and disposal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. [more](#)



GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Global Roundtable on Climate Change brings together more than 150 high-level, critical stakeholders from all regions of the world — including senior executives from the private sector and leaders of international governmental and non-governmental organizations — to discuss and explore areas of potential consensus regarding core scientific, technological, and economic issues critical to shaping sound public policies on climate change. Such a consensus, if reached, could have a major impact on the international community due to the high-profile stakeholder status and top-tier professional positions of Roundtable participants. [visit website](#)