


**Message from Jeff Sachs**

Real Video (13:05) 

Quicktime Video (13:05) 

In this month's video address, Jeff Sachs details the recent activities of The Earth Institute, which include the completion of a global report for the U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, emergency response to the tsunami with on-the-ground action in Banda Aceh by the Center for Global Health and Economic Development's Ron Waldman and colleagues, and on-the-ground work of Pedro Sanchez and Cheryl Palm in Kenya. "The Earth Institute is at the center of the challenge on sustainable development and response to the vulnerabilities of the poor and I think I speak for all when I say I'm very proud to be part of this remarkable organization," says Jeff Sachs.

**World Leaders and Celebrities Mix at World Economic Forum in Davos**

At the World Economic Forum's annual meeting, world leaders such as Tony Blair and Bill Clinton mixed with activists, such as Angelina Jolie, Sharon Stone, Richard Gere and Bono in a series of discussions about the state of the world. Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, joined Bill Gates, Gordon Brown, and presidents of Brazil and Tanzania in a panel discussion on funding the war on poverty that was moderated by

**In the News****Tsunami and Earthquake Media Coverage**

Earth Institute scientists, such as Arthur Lerner-Lam, Jeffrey Weissel, John Muttur, Klaus Jacob, Lynn Sykes, Won-Young Kim, and EI director Jeffrey D. Sachs, authored articles and granted interviews for hundreds of media outlets around the world, informing the general public of what happened in the Indian Ocean, the geological processes that caused these events, and what the possibilities are of similar scenarios happening elsewhere in the world. The Earth Institute was also looked to for information on foreign relief efforts and what role the United States should play.

**The Millennium Project Media Coverage**

Jeffrey D. Sachs, along with several Earth Institute experts who were task force co-chairs on the Millennium Project, responded to hundreds of media calls for information about the project, a comprehensive strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. "Until now, we did not have a concrete plan for achieving the Millennium Development Goals," said Sachs, director of The Earth Institute and director of the three-year U.N. Millennium Project, which released its report on January 17. "The experts who contributed to this huge undertaking have shown without a doubt that we can still meet the Goals — if we start putting this plan into action right now."

**Newsweek -- January 27, 2005**

At the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, Switzerland this week, poverty stood high on the agenda. "This is not a morality story," Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of The Earth Institute, says. "Globalization has bypassed people caught in the poverty trap."

**Nature -- January 27, 2005**

Finland's top position on the 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI) is a product of its wealth, sound environmental policies and low population density, says Alex de Sherbinin of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) who helped to compile the index with colleague Marc Levy.

**Newsday -- January 27, 2005**

Gavin Schmidt, a climate modeler at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, says that many extreme climate predictions would fall by the wayside under more realistic constraints based on past climate records.

**National Geographic -- January 26, 2005**

Thousands of people around the world have loaned the unused power of their personal computers to help

**The Tsunami and Foreign Aid: Could America Do More?**

In 2003, net official development assistance from the world's developed countries totaled only 0.25 percent of GNP. The U.S. ratio was 0.15, the lowest of all donor countries. The magnitude of destruction caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami reflects the urgent need for investments in scientific and technical infrastructure needed to reduce the vulnerability of developing countries to natural and environmental calamities. Relatively inexpensive water level sensors needed to sense and track tsunamis were not in place despite years of discussion. [more](#)

**Action Plan for Millennium Development Goals to Combat Poverty Worldwide*****The Millennium Project Report Gives Specific Recommendations for Achieving the U.N. Millennium Development Goals***

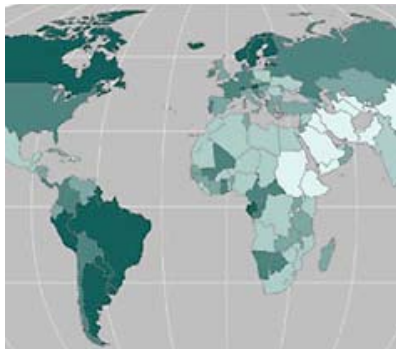
On January 17, 2005, in the most comprehensive strategy ever put forward for combating global poverty, hunger and disease, the U.N. Millennium Project released a blueprint for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The report "[Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals](#)" was prepared by a team of 265 of the world's leading development experts, including many scientists from The Earth Institute at Columbia University. It includes specific cost-effective measures that together could cut extreme poverty in half and radically improve



Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, Earth Institute Director Jeffrey D. Sachs and Valentine Kambori, Secretary for National Planning in Papua New Guinea (above, left to right) talked over issues of sustainable development at a dinner this month hosted by Sachs. The Prime Minister announced on January 27 that the organization of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations will begin planning for Kyoto's next phase, which must actively include developing nations in both emissions regulation and emissions trading markets.

### Barnard Arctic Scientist Receives Professorship Endowment

Stephanie Pfirman, chair of the Department of Environmental Science at Barnard College and specialist in the study of environmental changes in the Arctic, has received a professorship endowed by Martin Hirschorn that will support Pfirman's research and teaching at Barnard. [more](#)



### Finland Tops Environmental Scorecard at World Economic Forum

The 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI), which was released at the World Economic Forum on January 27, ranks countries on 21 elements of environmental sustainability, and was produced jointly by researchers at Columbia's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) and Yale University. [more](#)

scientists model Earth's past and future climate.

### The Washington Post -- January 20, 2005 The Quad -- January 20, 2005

"In my more than three decades in government, I have never seen anything approaching the degree to which information flow from scientists to the public has been screened and controlled as it has now," said James E. Hansen, director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

### Innovations Report -- January 12, 2005

An educational version of NASA's global climate computer model (EdGCM) is now available to download, allowing computer users to simulate climate change. It was developed with help from scientists at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

### U.S News & World Report -- December 20, 2004

What happens when child soldiers grow up? Dr. Neil Boothby, Director of the Program on Forced Migration and Family Health at the Center for Global Health and Economic Development, finds surprising answers in Mozambique.

[more recently in the media](#)



Shown above (left to right) at the premier of the new IMAX film "Aliens of the Deep" are director James Cameron, producer Andrew Wight, co-director Steve Quale, and Lamont-Doherty scientist and film consultant Maya Tolstoy.

### The Real Life Aquatic

#### Director James Cameron's New IMAX Film Puts Columbia Scientist in the Deep Sea

James Cameron, who has won Academy Awards for Titanic and the Terminator, has a passion for deep-sea science that fueled his most recent work, the science documentary "Aliens of the Deep," which is to be released in IMAX theatres across the country, and features Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory scientist Maya Tolstoy. [more](#)



### São Tomé and Príncipe Enacts Model Oil Revenue Management Law

A team of experts from the Earth Institute and Hogan & Hartson LLP, working pro bono, assisted São Tomé and Príncipe in its year-long effort to develop and enact a

the lives of at least one billion people in poor developing countries by 2015. [more](#)



### Earth Institute Supports Training Women to Battle Disease in Ethiopia

Some Ethiopians endure dust storms and midday sun while walking to health clinics for treatment of diseases and conditions that are preventable but fatal, such as malaria, typhoid, AIDS, and malnutrition. The Earth Institute has created the Center for National Health Development in Ethiopia to provide support for a program that will put health care within reach of 12 million Ethiopians. [more](#)

Earth Institute writer Jill Stoddard and Earth Institute creative director Mark Inglis give their impressions after visiting Ethiopia [watch video](#)

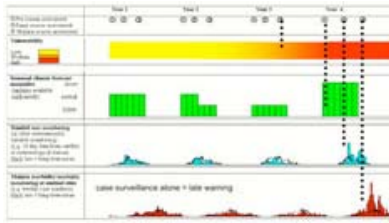


Earth Institute creative director Mark Inglis' compelling photos of Ethiopia illustrate the diversity and challenges of the country [watch photo slideshow](#)



### Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Scientist Testifies at House Science Committee Meeting on Tsunami

"Some of the events that caused the tsunami can be forecast in ways that pertain to our understanding of basic science," said Arthur Lerner-Lam, director of the Center for Hazards and Risk Research, during his testimony at a House Science Committee meeting on January 26. [more](#)



### Climate-Sensitive Diseases Can Be Mitigated by Early Warning Systems

A new research center directed by the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction's Stephen Connor, a specialist in the geography of infectious diseases, will facilitate improved knowledge and application of seasonal climate forecasts in regions facing high incidences of climate-related diseases such as malaria, dengue and cholera, with malaria alone threatening more than 110 million people living in epidemic-prone regions in Africa. [more](#)

### Special Events at the Earth Institute

EVENT Thursday, February 9, 6-8pm

[Earth Institute Lecture: Africa's Energy Future](#)

EVENT Tuesday, February 15, 6-8pm

[Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War and the Roots of Terror](#)

EVENT Thursday, February 17, 4-6pm

[Earth Institute In the Field: Presentations on Earth Clinic Projects](#)

### Comments and Suggestions

Contact our [editor](#)

### Past issues

new international standard for transparency and control of oil revenues. "Nothing will be hidden, nothing will be wasted," said São Tomé and Príncipe President Fradique de Menezes. [more](#)



### Contemplating Himalayas, Columbia Scientist Finds His Groove

At the age of 24, Peter Kelemen visited the Himalayas and asked, "How could lava have passed through so much rock and not be fundamentally changed?" Twenty-five years later, Kelemen, who is Arthur Storke Memorial Professor of Geochemistry in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University, received the Bowen Award for his influential contributions to the field of volcanology, geochemistry and petrology. [more](#)



### New Technologies Reduce Exposure of Bangladeshi Villagers to Arsenic in Groundwater

Well diggers in Arahazar, Bangladesh, will soon be able to take advantage of a cell phone-based data system, developed at The Earth Institute, to target safe groundwater aquifers for installing new wells that are not tainted with arsenic. Using a new needle-sampler (also developed at the Earth Institute), they will be able to test whether the water is safe during drilling and before a well is installed. [more](#)

### Earth Institute Internships Fit the Student Body

Over 300 Columbia graduate and undergraduate students applied for 27 of the first Earth Institute internships now being offered in many EI divisions including the New York City Sustainable Development Initiative, the Global Round Table on Climate Change, the Director's Office, and the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development. The Climate Change Task Force at New York City Department of Environmental Protection is also offering spots. [more](#)