

Message from Jeff Sachs

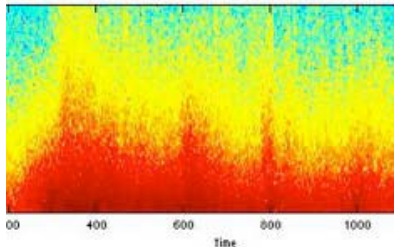
Real Video (5:54) 

Quicktime (5:54) 

In this short video, Jeffrey D. Sachs announces an upcoming talk by Rwandan President Paul Kagame on September 15 as part of Columbia's World Leaders Forum. "The Earth Institute is working with great intensity and effectiveness in Rwanda on aspects of health, agriculture and economic development," says Sachs. "It will be wonderful to welcome Paul Kagame to the Columbia community."

The Earth Institute is also hosting a special lecture and panel discussion chaired by Sachs on September 13, "Working Together to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals," with His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia.

Sachs also announces the upcoming Open House on the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory campus on October 1. "Every year Open House has been a splendid day where the Columbia University community, friends and neighbors of Lamont come to understand the Earth science research and the great work of CIESIN and the IRI. It's always a wonderful day for my family."

**The Sound of a Distant Rumble**

Researchers Track Underwater Noise Generated by December 26 Earthquake

In the News**Water is Life, But Sanitation is Dignity**

The United Nations estimates that 2.6 billion people, including over 700 million in India, do not have the luxury of household toilets or the privacy of a secluded latrine. As a U.S. daily newspaper pointed out recently, hundreds of slum dwellers in the sprawling Indian city of Mumbai are forced to use the adjacent rail tracks as public toilets every morning. *From IPS, August 24, 2005*

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Geochemists Get New Building

Gary Comer, founder of the Lands' End Direct Merchants clothing catalog company, has given an \$18 million gift to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. *From The Rockland Journal News, August 27, 2005*

Scientists: Earth Spins Faster at Center

The giant iron ball at the center of the Earth appears to be spinning a bit faster than the rest of the planet. Scientists from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign reported these findings in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*. *From CNN, August 25, 2005 and The New York Times*

Africa: The Human Footprint

During the past century humanity's imprint on the planet has spread faster than at any time in history. To illustrate the relationship between people and the Earth, scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society and The Earth Institute at Columbia University have created the Human Footprint map. It measures four key categories that reveal human influence: population, land use (such as agriculture), electrical grids, and road-and-rail networks. *From National Geographic, September 2005*

UN Adviser Sachs Warns Poverty Fuels Terror

"The war on terror can't ever be won if the war on poverty isn't won," said Sachs, the UN Secretary General's special adviser on the UN Millennium Development Goals and director of The Earth Institute. "If we continue this combination of high rhetoric and grossly insufficient action, I think the risks to (the United States) own national security ... and the risk to global stability are very real." *From The Associated Press, August 8, 2005*

Malawi: MDGs Can Be Achieved

Despite widespread poverty and recurring food shortages, Malawi can still achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), according to Jeffrey D. Sachs, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Advisor on the MDGs. *From Reuters, August 1, 2005*

**How to Save the World by 2015: The Millennium Development Goals**

The Millennium Development Goals are the world's agreed-upon targets to eradicate the extreme poverty, hunger and disease that kills millions of people each year in the poorest parts of the world.

The Earth Institute's [nine MDG audio slideshows](#) examine the complex dimensions of extreme poverty, and explain why the eight Millennium Development Goals are a way for the international community to achieve a better world in our lifetime. [more](#)

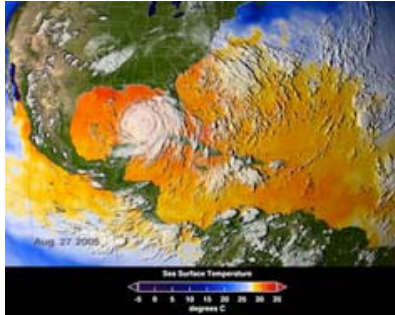
**Ghanaian Villages Making Their Way Out of Poverty**

Through programs focusing on child nutrition, immunizations and community farming, and the creation of a bank led by women, a group of Ghanaian villages outside Accra are making their way out of poverty and "will achieve the Millennium Development Goals," said Jeffrey D. Sachs during his visit there on July 10th.

[more](#)

When the sea floor off the coast of Sumatra split on the morning of December 26, 2004, it took days to measure the full extent of the rupture. Recently, researchers at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory analyzed recordings of the underwater sound produced by the magnitude 9.3 earthquake.

[Listen to the December 26 earthquake \(mp3\)](#) 



Hurricane Forecasting Focus of IRI Work

Warmer than usual sea surface temperature in the Gulf of Mexico was one of the factors that influenced the strengthening of Hurricane Katrina (shown above in a NASA satellite image from August 27). Scientists at the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI) currently produce experimental seasonal forecasts of tropical cyclone activity for several regions, including the Atlantic. IRI scientists are actively working to understand seasonal and longer timescale variation of landfall probabilities with the goal of reducing the vulnerability of coastal regions. [read about mapping hurricane probabilities by an IRI scientist](#)



Gerard Bond, a Gifted and Tenacious Scientist, Passes Away at 65

Gerard Clark Bond, a respected and beloved geologist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and resident of Pearl River, New York passed away on Wednesday June 29. He was 65. A symposium entitled "Remembering Gerard Bond" will take place at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory on October 19, 2005 beginning at 9:00 A.M. [more](#)

Bangladesh's Deadly Wells

What can be done to provide safe water to the 12 million people in Bangladesh who continue to rely on poisoned wells for drinking and cooking? The installation of roughly 50,000 community wells could alleviate much of the problem at a cost of approximately \$50 million. *From an op-ed by Lex Van Geen, Kazi Matin Ahmed and Joseph H. Graziano in the The New York Times, July 30, 2005*

War on Hunger

Each month, 200,000 Africans die from what Pedro Sanchez, a tropical soils expert, calls "a silent tsunami," the tide of chronic hunger and malnutrition that sweeps across the African continent. No one is immune: it reaches coastal fishing towns, rural villages, and urban centers alike. *From NASA, July 22, 2005*

[more recently in the media](#)

Special Events at the Earth Institute

EVENT Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2:45-3:45pm
"Working Together to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals," with His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia

EVENT Thursday, Sept. 15, 10am-12noon
"The Millennium Development Goals from Rwanda's Perspective," with His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda

EVENT Saturday, Oct. 1, 10am-4pm
Open House at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 6pm, \$25/\$40
Bono and Jeffrey D. Sachs Present the Glucksman Ireland House's Inaugural Moynihan Lecture



Eighteen Million Dollar Gift Awarded to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Gary Comer builds on legacy of support for the sciences

Columbia University announced today an \$18 million gift from Gary Comer and the Comer Science and Education Foundation in support of research at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. [more](#)



A Place in the World for the Coupling of Science and Religion

The Center for the Study of Science and Religion's activities come at a time when religious ideologues have been increasingly clashing with scientists on a host of issues, most recently in the evolution versus intelligent design debate. [more](#)



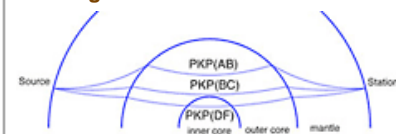
Lamont-Doherty Open House, October 1, 2005

Since the 1950's, one of the world's premier earth sciences research institutions, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory has held an open house for the general public. This gives the public an opportunity to learn about current developments in the earth sciences and about how our increasing understanding of the Earth is used to help preserve its future.

Exhibits, activities, demonstrations, and presentations are aimed at different ages and educational levels, from elementary school-age children, to college students, to those well versed in the earth sciences. [more](#)

Scientists from EI's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Reveal Internal Workings of Our Planet

The Core: Scientists Confirm Earth's Inner Core Rotating Faster Than Rest of Planet



Scientists have ended a nine-year debate over whether the Earth's inner core is undergoing changes that can be detected on a human timescale. [more](#)

The Mantle: Study Reconciles Long-Standing Contradiction of Deep-Earth Dynamics



"For thirty years scientists have been debating whether there is a layer in the mantle that has remained unchanged since the formation of the Earth," said Cornelia Class, Doherty Associate Research Scientist. "The new on-line databases made it possible for the first time to re-evaluate the geochemical arguments." [more](#)

The Crust: Deep Magmatic Plumbing of Mid-Ocean Ridges Revealed



A Meeting with the Honorable Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh

On July 1, 2005, Nirupam Bajpai, Senior Development Adviser and Director of the South Asia Program, met with the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, to discuss how the Earth Institute can help India expand the delivery of needed services to rural areas. [more](#)

Burning Waste for Energy in Greece

A proposal to dry processed sewage from a treatment plant on the Greek island of Psytaleia to produce energy recently outraged locals. With landfill space at a premium throughout Greece, Professor Nicholas Themelis, director of the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University, tells the Athens News that waste-to-energy plants could be the answer to Greece's problems. [download pdf](#)



Studying Turtle Disease Has Its Challenges

On an isolated Pacific atoll, Columbia student Joe Spring gets up close with tumor-laden green sea turtles, bird-eating tiger sharks, and a surprising amount of garbage. [more](#)



Graduate Students Gain Practical Skills in Environmental Policy and Management

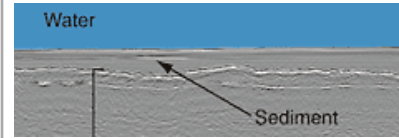
There was little rest this summer for students in Columbia's Master of Public Administration Program in Environmental Science and Policy, who spent the last few months sharpening their knowledge of management and policy issues through the Workshop in Applied Earth Systems Management. Fifty-eight Masters' candidates gathered in five project teams to design a detailed operational plan for addressing important public policy issues affecting the environment. [more](#)

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Some of the highest quality images ever taken of the Earth's lower crust reveal that the upper and lower crust form in two distinctly different ways. A team led by researchers from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory published the results of their work in the August 25 issue of the journal *Nature*. [more](#)



Environmental Thesis Project: Green Roofs Could Help NYC Sewage System

Using a computer model she built herself, Debra Tillingier, an environmental science major, came up with a prediction as to how much better New York City's sewage system would function if plant-covered roofs throughout the city slowed the flow of rainwater to the sewers. [more](#)

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