Scientists at Columbia are expanding dramatically in the 10 years since the Rio Summit, noted John Matter, assistant editor of the Earth Institute at Columbia, which hosted the two-day event. We know that creating awareness is the first step to action and work to solve some of the problems under which a large share of the planet’s 6 billion people live.

A missing link is money to address the problems. Incoming Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs said that industrialized countries spend just one cent out of every ten dollars earned, they could create an annual fund of roughly $25 billion with which to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, and end death during childhood as well as from diarrheal diseases. This would have avoided about 25 million deaths daily, or 8 million people annually.

“The world is a global scale,” said Professor Sachs. “I can tell you that we are not yet buying this bargain, but I believe that we will.”

Sachs said that the conference noted that while institutions will need strengthening, scientists have a responsibility to use their knowledge to “improve the livelihood of the 2 billion people living on less than one dollar a day.”

Professor Sachs said that “a unique and effective user experience,” its pleasant design, and online learning elements that are “a unique and effective way to communicate information,” said Sachs.

CI is adding links to o-semester, class websites, video of events, faculty interviews, e-zines, and interactive tools and content. CI provides general access to dozens of new cutting-edge interactive tools and learning created for e-seminars.

This on-site educational tool kit is an intensive map of the Middle East (http://ci.columbia.edu/ subjects/politix.html) produced for an audience interested in the culture and politics of Iran featuring Gary Sick, acting director of the Middle East Institute at Columbia. By clicking on one of 17 Middle Eastern countries, users can zoom to a view of the country, learn about its leadership, suffrage and religious composition, and at any point take an interactive course on its place in the world. CI’s project is the first to provide access to global information about any society.

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Six-full time faculty and five adjacent faculty members, recruited for their expertise and sum of the remaining field, will lead the program. The five-year course requires the completion of 54 course credits over a period of three continuous semesters. Students will receive hands-on instruction inside the 3.1 acres Biosphere 2 Center located outside of Tucson, AZ.

Columbia Interactive (CI), a Web-based extension, is a new and notable website.

“We are pleased to again be recognized for innovative and effective communication of our educational resources to the world,” said G. Todd Hardy, executive director and former president of Columbia DKV, Inc. “We are gratifying to know that our efforts to use this interactive medium to extend the reach of our educational resources are well received and honored amongst our peers.”

According to Mike Saucier, president of Horizons Interactive, the recipient of a Canadian government down and subsequent shake-out among digital media firms in 2002, the competitive landscape is complete with larger multi-media firms. It is these smaller firms that are creating more innova-