The above map details how countries around the globe rank in the Environmental Sustainability Index. The shading corresponds to total score, with the higher ranking countries appearing the darkest. The United States comes in at 45th.

“By highlighting the leaders and laggards, which governments are wary of doing, the ESI creates pressure for improved results.” – Daniel C. Esty

“While the ESI makes compara- tive policy analysis possible, it is shocking how many critical environ- mental issues are still not measured in any usable way,” noted Marc Levy, associate director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) in the Earth Institute, and one of the lead con- tributors to the ESI. “The interna- tional community has a renewed commitment to developing metrics to track policy progress, particularly in the con- text of the environmental ele- ments of the Millennium Development Goals—the world- wide effort to lift developing countries above the burdens of poverty by 2015.”

The 2005 ESI rankings reflect refinements in methodology and advanced statistical techniques used to identify clusters of coun- tries with similar environmental circumstances.

“Ideating a relevant peer group against whom to bench- mark results turns out to be a crit- ical element of good environmen- tal policymaking,” said Tanja Srebotnik, director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy. “No country is on a sustainable path. However, at every level of development, some countries manage their environmen- tual challenges well and oth- ers less so. For instance, Belgium is as wealthy as Sweden, but it lags with regard to pollution con- trol and natural resource manage- ment. In this regard, the variables that gauge a country’s commit- ment to good governance— including robust political debate, a free press, lack of corruption and rule of law—are highly corre- lated with overall environmental success.”

The ESI demonstrates that envi- ronmental protection need not come at the cost of competitive- ness. Finland is the equal of the United States in competitiveness but scores much higher on envi- ronmental sustainability and out- performs the U.S. across a spec- trum of issues, from air pollution to contributions to global-scale environmental effects.

Analysis of the ESI data also makes clear that developed coun- tries face environmental chal- lenges, particularly pollution stresses and contamination issues, distinct from those facing developing, at- scar, resource depletion and a lack of capacity for pollution control are dominated by historical economic development, some- times distinct from those facing developing countries, where many challenges, both natural and human, should be the research and education that is address- ing these global health issues,” says Gerald Fischbach, execu- tive vice president of Columbia University Medical Center and dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. “Through global collaborations like this one, we have the power to bring together the greatest minds in the world to eradicate diseases, address polit- ical issues and improve the lives of people everywhere.”

“Building a medical and scientific bridge between the U.S. and Korea offers unique opportunities to enhance healthcare for diverse patient populations, and for fostering new initia- tives across the spectrum of academic medicine— including clinical trials, interna- tional medicine, national healthcare policy, outcomes research and medical education,” says Antonio Gotto, dean of Weill Cornell Medical College. “Our four institutions share the highest commitment to providing the best care for our patients—as well as the best training for physicians through our residency pro-

Four-way Medical Affiliation

Hallym’s parent company “We look forward to this opportunity for new collaborations with our particular expertise in New York University.”

Like other private insti- tutions in New York state, the university recovers funding for stu- dent aid, research support, and for fostering medical care for students and facul- ty. The week of Jan. 18, Gov. George Pataki, Law 70, introduced a $105.5 billion 2006 state budget that reduces a $4 billion deficit with $1.5 billion in reductions for hospitals, nursing homes and other health care pro- grams of concern to Columbia fared better than others.

In the financial aid arena, the budget proposes to cut Higher Education Opportunity Program funding half through elimination of its financial aid. Portions of the ESI the students participate in HEPF. The budget proposes changes in the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) that raise the maximum TAP award from $1,066 million. Columbia students receiving TAP would receive a maximum of $1,150 million in TAP funding, most of which supports close to 7,000 undergraduates. These changes would phase in a plan to defer half of awards to new recipients until graduation. The State Student Technology Entry Program (STEP), run by the Dental School at Columbia, would lose last year’s funding level as does Research and Development Aid, known as Bundy Aid.

For the second year in a row, Columbia is among a capital matching grants program. This year, $150 million would be allocated to pri- vate colleges and universi- ties according to the fami- ly income profiles of the students enrolled.

Cutting federal tech- nology research programs are specifically mentioned in the budget for previously promised matching grants for the large federal gift. The budget of the New York State Psychiatric Institution remains relatively sta- ble.

In support of efforts to increase student aid, the "Columbia Office of Gov- ernment Relations is coor- dinating a student lobby day on Feb. 8, 2005. The office will coordinate with other col- leges and universities in a top lobby trip, contact the University for more information, go to www.cumc.columbia.edu.