



A Global View of a Local Beat

Internews' Earth Journalism Network Director James Fahn has just launched a [monthly column on environmental journalism](#) in the *Columbia Journalism Review*. [Below](#), see his first column on why coverage of the environment is so vital.



New York Times Dot Earth blogger Andrew Revkin [wrote about his experience](#) with journalism fellows from around the world who covered COP 16, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancún in December. "For journalism, the best outcome of the talks, in fact, may be the growth of a global network of communicators who'll keep trading success stories, and failures, on one of the tougher beats around," said Revkin. The fellows were hosted by Internews, Panos, and IIED.

In partnership with China's Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, Internews's Earth Journalism Network (EJN) and the International Center for Communications Development (ICCD) [convened 28 Chinese journalists](#) from Guangdong and other provinces for a multifaceted training to build skills in environmental health reporting.

Introducing 'Earth Journalism': A global view of a local beat

by James Fahn | February 1, 2011 | Columbia Journalism Review



In the grand scheme of environmental affairs, journalism is almost always an afterthought. The media world seems to return the disfavor: the environmental beat is one of the least prestigious, and the journalists covering it seem to be among the first laid off during tough times; even journalism schools sometimes give it short shrift.

And yet of course, the environment not only needs covering if it is to be protected, it also can present some of the most compelling stories around. Climate change, with all its related issues, may end up being the biggest story of this century.

Other issues - the loss of biodiversity, conflicts over fresh water, the long-term health impacts of environmental toxins - are also having profound impacts around the world. ([Full article](#))

"[The developing world journalists who produce environmental stories] are among the most inspiring I've ever met. My career is now dedicated to helping them. I've joined their cause of trying to explain the natural world and our interaction with it, in a way that is factually based, scientifically accurate, and as fair as we know how to make it." – James Fahn

Internews is a media development organization that works with the local media worldwide to give the communities they serve the information they need, the ability to connect, and the means to make their voices heard. Working in some of the most difficult environments around the world, Internews collaborates with international donors and local civil society organizations to adapt new technologies and pioneers innovative methodologies to meet the information

needs or communities around the world.

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