

10 good. 10 bad. 10 years.

The last decade proved to be nothing less than overwhelming. Time Magazine (November, 2009) called it the "Decade from Hell" and who could blame them? With disasters, both natural and man-made, such as the bombings of the World Trade Centre, the South East Asia Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, the Haiti earthquake and the global financial crisis, to name a few. But there were also a lot of positives, which included the election of the first Black President in America, the rise of the emerging economies and an aggressive telecommunications boom changing the face of global communication: Facebook, smartphones, iPad... Below, we list our 10 good and 10 bad episodes of the last decade.

10 good:

1. Kofi Annan wins the Nobel Peace Prize – 2001
2. iPod launched and led to an iCraze – 2001
3. Mark Shuttleworth is the first African in space – 2002
4. South African born author, JM Coetzee, wins the Nobel Literature Award – 2003
5. The launch of Facebook – 2004
6. Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank shared the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to create economic and social development – 2006
7. South Africa wins the Rugby World Cup – 2007
8. Barack Obama becomes the first African American President of the United States – 2009
9. South Africa becomes the first African country to host the FIFA World Cup – 2010
10. The economic emergence of China, with millions of people lifted out of poverty – 2000-2010

10 bad:

1. Twin Towers are bombed – 2001
2. Bird Flu – 2002
3. America goes to war with Iraq – 2003
4. South East Asia Tsunami – 2004
5. Hurricane Katrina – 2005
6. Lehman Brothers go bankrupt, only fuelling the 2008/2009 Recession – 2008
7. Swine Flu – 2009
8. Michael Jackson dies – 2009
9. Haiti Earthquake – 2010
10. Eurozone sovereign debt crisis – 2010