

## ‘Hottest decade’ means nothing

From Mr Bernard Beauzamy.

Sir, Your article “Hottest decade statistics pose hurdle for sceptics” (December 9) should in fact read: “The average temperature over the existing meteorological stations is, in this decade, among the hottest ever registered.” But this leads to two remarks.

First, the number of meteorological stations has changed considerably over the years. Second, the part of the earth that is covered by such stations is still extremely small; for instance, we know almost nothing about temperatures in the oceans in general, or in high atmosphere.

There are good records in well-defined places (such as large cities), but our knowledge of the general climate of the planet is so small that statements such as the “hottest decade for the planet” are scientifically meaningless.

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