



## Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative

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### THE CLUSTER CITIES PROJECT

#### ANNOUNCING THE FIRST ASIAN CITIES CLUSTER WORKSHOP

## **Theme: Reducing Urban Risk through International Cooperation**

**December 4-6, 2003  
Mumbai, India**

EMI is pleased to announce that the First Asian Cluster Cities Workshop will be held at Mumbai, India on December 4-6, 2003. This will be the inaugural workshop for the Asian Cluster Cities Project (Asian CCP), which includes the cities of Mumbai, Kathmandu, Dhaka, Tashkent and Beijing (observer).

EMI has recently launched the Asian CCP as part of its Cluster Cities Project (CCP). The main objective of the CCP is to bring together the decision makers from these cities and experts from scientific community on a single platform to identify problems, share knowledge and work towards the development of sustainable solutions to reduce the risk of disasters in the cities. The CCP participants also include leaders from the business community and civil society. The CCP promotes mutual cooperation between local governments through the development of network of cities to enable them to work together for mutual benefit. The CCP is EMI's mechanism for local capacity building.

The Mumbai workshop will act as a platform to discuss the disaster risk reduction issues relevant to the Asian region, and the Asian cluster cities in particular. The workshop is expected to develop road maps for future action and cooperation in disaster management involving international scientific community and the participating cities. The workshop is also expected to constitute a platform for improving current practice and for capacity strengthening within the partnering institutions. The Mayors and other officers of various member cities are expected to participate in the workshop and provide direction. The participants also include international experts in disaster management, multilateral funding agencies, NGOs, and corporate leaders.

Some of the worst disasters in recent times have occurred in Asia, causing immeasurable misery a very large number of people. These disasters have affected both developing and developed countries with similar consequences illustrating the need for better preparedness and disaster management capabilities in this region. Some of the most notable urban disasters include earthquakes in India, Turkey and Japan, flooding in India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, landslides in several parts of Asia, and cyclonic storms in the Pacific Rim and South Asia. Each of these disasters resulted in high human casualty and severely impacted the economic activities in the region.

The high impact of disasters in Asia is primarily due to intense population concentration in the urban regions and low level of economic development in most countries. In many Asian countries, very large or mega-cities have developed due to demographic pressure and lack of economic opportunities in the rural regions. Most recent migrants in these cities are from economically disadvantaged sections of society and are inherently vulnerable to disasters.

The Asian CCP will benefit from the experience and knowledge accumulated by EMI through its other city clusters, more notably the East Asia City Cluster. Representative from these cities and other EMI city partners will be invited to participate in the workshop.

The tentative program of the workshop shall be communicated shortly.

**For Further information about the Asia Cluster Cities Workshop, please contact Prof. Ravi Sinha at: [rsinha@civil.iitb.ac.in](mailto:rsinha@civil.iitb.ac.in).**

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