

INTRODUCTION

Some of the worst disasters in recent times have occurred in Asia, causing immeasurable misery to 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 areas 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 Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai in association with the Government of Maharashtra, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative is organising an International Workshop on Disaster Management. The workshop theme is **Reducing Urban Risk Through International Cooperation**, and is scheduled for December 4-6, 2003 in Mumbai.

The EMI and other collaborating international organisations shall be sending a team of international disaster management experts to address the workshop. In addition, high-level participation of Mayors and their

administrative counterparts from several cities in India and abroad is expected.

Several top political and administrative policymakers are likely to grace the workshop.

The workshop is expected to develop national and international agenda for disaster management of our cities. The deliberations and recommendations are expected to facilitate development of a roadmap for national and regional policies on disaster management.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Keynote presentations by international experts

Structured presentations by leaders/officers of major cities (Mumbai, Tashkent, Dhaka, Kathmandu, Beijing, Manila etc.)

Presentations on national and international initiatives:

1. *Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India*
2. *United Nations Development Programme*
3. *United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*
4. *Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Centre, Japan*
5. *The World Bank*
6. *Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre*

4 Parallel workshop sessions:

1. *Administrative structure and procedures for implementing disaster management plans*
2. *Development control regulation and techno-legal issues*
3. *Role of corporate sector in urban disaster risk reduction*
4. *Role of NGOs and media in urban disaster risk reduction*

Workshop Organisers

Government of Maharashtra

**Municipal Corporation of Greater
Mumbai**

**Indian Institute of Technology
Bombay**

**Earthquakes and Megacities
Initiative**

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

The Mayors and representatives of several major international cities have been invited to participate. The workshop invitees also include Mayors and Municipal Commissioners of most major Indian cities. In addition, ministers and policymakers from some countries are also likely to participate. A strong contingent of international disaster management experts including technical experts on different hazards are also expected to address the workshop.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Participation in the workshop is strictly by invitation. Those interested in participating or nominating may kindly contact the organisers with their details for consideration. The nominations must reach the organisers latest by

15th November, 2003

REGISTRATION

Prior registration of all participants is required. It will not be possible to entertain any requests for registration during the workshop.

VENUE

The workshop will be held at Hotel Taj Lands End, Bandra, Mumbai.

ACCOMODATION

Accommodation to invited participants shall be provided by the workshop organisers. The other participants are required to make their own arrangements.

For further information, please contact:

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT REDUCING URBAN RISK THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

4th-6th December, 2003

Organised by

**Government of Maharashtra
Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative**



Government of Maharashtra



Venue

**Hotel Taj Lands End, Bandra, Mumbai,
India**