



Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative

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THE CLUSTER CITIES PROJECT

ANNOUNCES

THE 2004 AMERICAS CLUSTER CITIES WORKSHOP

4-6 March 2004

Los Angeles, California

EMI is pleased to announce that the Sixth Americas Cluster Cities Workshop will be held in Los Angeles, California on March 4-6, 2004. The Workshop is co-sponsored by the Emergency Preparedness Department, City of Los Angeles, and the Southern California Earthquake Center, University of Southern California. This Workshop will build on previous workshops held in each of the four participating cities: Mexico City, Bogota, Quito, and Los Angeles.

The main objective of the CCP is to bring together decision makers from these cities and experts from the international 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 a network among the cities to enable them to work together for mutual benefit. The CCP is EMI's mechanism for local capacity building.

The Los Angeles Workshop will serve as a forum to discuss disaster risk reduction issues relevant to the Americas, and the four Cluster Cities in particular. As disaster risk reduction efforts in each of the cities mature, the workshop serves as a venue for comparing approaches, sharing methods and results, and coordinating strategies to increase collaboration in disaster management. These efforts benefit from continued interaction between the international scientific community and the participating cities. The workshop also constitutes a platform for demonstrating current practice in disaster risk reduction and for strengthening capacity within and among the partnering institutions. Mayors and other officers of the member cities are invited to participate in the workshop and provide direction. Participants also include international experts in disaster management, multilateral funding agencies, NGOs, and corporate leaders.

The Americas – North, Central, and South – share the threat of seismic risk that defines their western coastlines. From Alaska through California, Mexico to Central America, Colombia to the tip of Chile, major cities in the region confront growing populations exposed to recurring seismic risk. The Cluster Cities Program of the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative is committed to enabling cities to manage this risk more effectively and efficiently, reducing losses in lives, property, and opportunities for development.

The preliminary program of the workshop shall be communicated shortly.

For further information about the Americas Cluster Cities Workshop, please contact Mark Benthien at: benthien@usc.edu

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