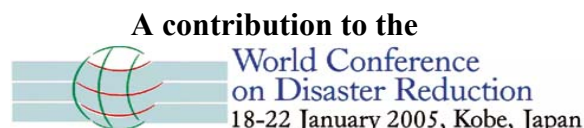


Symposium on
**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR MEGACITIES IN ASIA:
Planning and Implementation**

21-22 January 2005, Kobe International Conference Center, Port Island, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan



Organized under the auspices of the



As part of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI), in cooperation with Kobe University and Kobe City, is organizing the Symposium on *Disaster Risk Management for Megacities in Asia: Planning and Implementation* to be held on January 21-22, 2005 in Kobe, Japan. Participants in the two-day symposium will include local officials, administrators and academic researchers from the EMI megacities partners in Asia and other parts of the world, as well as representatives from international and regional organizations that have been actively engaged in disaster risk reduction. The sponsors of the symposium include the World Bank (HMU), Kobe University, Kobe City Municipal Government, Pacific Disaster Center, and EMI. This event is under the auspices of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (U.N. ISDR).

Distinguished leaders from organizations concerned by disaster risk reduction are being invited to participate in the opening ceremony. They include: Tomoyuki Nogami, President of Kobe University; Tadao Chino, President of Asian Development Bank, Sadako Ogata, President of Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Fouad Bendimerad, Chairman of EMI. Several local officials, including mayors from megacities in Asia will also relay their city's experience in dealing with disaster risk management.

The symposium is planned as a venue for exploring the theme of *planning* as a way for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in megacities and for implementing sound practices. The focus will be on sharing practices, discussing approaches and impediments to implementation, and learning from current experiments. The open forum format is an invitation to participants to enrich the discussion and to provide additional insight from other points of view. Reports will also be presented on EMI's Cluster Cities Project and 3cd Program. The two-day symposium agenda includes three panel discussions and two roundtable discussions. The topic for each is shown below:

- Panel 1: Planning for Disaster Risk Reduction in Megacities
- Panel 2: Models of Disaster Risk Assessment for Megacities
- Panel 3: Implementing Sound Practice
- Roundtable 1: Engaging Stakeholders and Building Sustainability Mechanisms
- Roundtable 2: Priority Setting for Disaster Risk Reduction

The first day of the symposium will be open to the public. For additional information and on-line registration, please visit EMI website:

www.earthquakesandmegacities.org/KobeSymposium