



# Cluster Cities Project Americas Megacities Forum 2007

A contribution to the local implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

19-21 September 2007, Mexico City, Mexico

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

[www.emi-megacities.org](http://www.emi-megacities.org)

Supported by:



The Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) and Mexico City Government in partnership with El Colegio de México, United Nations Development Programme [UNDP/BCPR], and ProVention Consortium will host the **Americas Megacities Forum 2007** in September in Mexico City. The Forum will be undertaken as part of EMI's Cluster Cities Project to provide a regional platform for cities to demonstrate to other cities the benefits of implementing sound practices in disaster risk reduction (DRR), establish mechanisms and methodologies to enable cities to adapt, replicate, and expand proven DRR sound practices and models to their respective local context, and to facilitate through demonstrated knowledge and peer-to-peer mechanisms the mainstreaming of DRR principles and practices in relevant aspects of local governance.

EMI, a not-for-profit international scientific non-governmental organization whose main advocacy is to accelerate preparedness, mitigation and recovery of megacities through the use and sharing of knowledge and sound practices, is holding regional meetings in Americas, East Asia and South-Central Asia. Regional meetings such as the Americas Megacities Forum aim to support peer-to-peer learning among cities where they can demonstrate proven field application of knowledge and use of various tools and methods as well as evidence-based approaches in DRR that inherently reflect processes at the city level.

In recent years, cities have become the focus of risk reduction initiatives as cities become more vulnerable to risks. Urbanization has become more intense, new infrastructure and facilities are built and land occupation and use occur at high social, economic and environmental costs that result in resources imbalances. Government resources are inadequate and governance structures have not set up programs to reduce vulnerability and losses, a very complex phenomenon requiring solid scientific research and broad community support. To support efforts to reduce losses in megacities and increase resilience among all stakeholders, scientists and engineers have bonded together and organized the EMI in 1997. Today the network of EMI has grown to more than 20 cities all over the world.

The member cities of the Americas Cluster: Bogota, Mexico, Lima, Los Angeles and Quito will come together at the Regional Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in Mega Urban Centers at Hotel Alameda, Mexico City on September 19- 21 to meet other cities and share evidence-based DRR practices and knowledge. Each partner city will be represented by an officer from a relevant city administrative unit and an academic/research leader to support the transfer of knowledge and the implementation of interventions within each city. EMI partners and international and non-governmental organizations working in Asia will also be present.

The program will include sessions with invited speakers from EMI, the UNDP/BCPR, ProVention Consortium, and the World Bank. The Forum will be a combination of formal and informal discussions, a Knowledge Fair that will showcase ideas, innovations and sound practices in risk reduction and formulation of policy guides and agreements on risk reduction. Participation is by invitation from the organizers. Registration information is attached below and should be sent to the EMI Secretariat no later than July 23, 2007.

For more information send an email to: [ammf07@emi-megacities.org](mailto:ammf07@emi-megacities.org).