

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT
Reducing Urban Risk Through International Cooperation
December 4-6, 2003

Workshop Recommendations

The *International Workshop on Disaster Management* with the theme **Reducing Urban Risk Through International Cooperation** has been organised by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, in cooperation with Government of Maharashtra, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative. The workshop had a very comprehensive agenda covering almost all aspects of disaster management. Over 250 delegates participated in the workshop, including 40 international participants from 10 other countries.

The following main recommendations were brought out during the workshop:

1. Mumbai should actively promote cooperation with other large cities and international organisations to enhance the local capabilities and also enrich the city in other ways.
2. The Asia Cluster cities should exchange their disaster management experiences and learn from each other. The Honourable Deputy Mayor of Kathmandu offered to host the next Asia Cluster Cities meeting in January 2005, which was strongly endorsed.
3. Our cities should strongly focus on mitigation and preparedness through modification of development control rules, land use regulations and suitable compliance mechanisms.
4. The building control regulations should incorporate safety-related regulations through incentives for proper design and construction. These regulations should be periodically updated and rigorously implemented.
5. The disaster management system should be strengthened through development of proper institutional systems and implementation mechanisms.
6. Effective command and control system should be implemented in the cities. The equipment procured for disaster management system should be properly maintained and periodically upgraded.
7. The cities should widely publicise their disaster management plans and incorporate relevant feedback. Training of people, who are the first responders, in preparedness and response is also required.
8. The government should form partnerships with the corporate sector during all stages of disaster management. The industries and corporate sector should develop their own disaster management plans and mutual-aid groups.
9. The media should be involved in pre-disaster activities and dissemination of information to the people.
10. Civil defence and other forms of self-help training should be offered to people.
11. Assistance of NGOs should be taken for dissemination of plans and for training of local people.