

Natural Disaster Risk Management: The Geography of Urban Vulnerability (Mumbai, India)

Report on

Workshop on Disaster Management

Organised by

**Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai**

Report by

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Submitted To:

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REPORT ON WORKSHOP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Background

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai jointly organised a Workshop on Disaster Management on May 8, 2003. This workshop, which was of ½ day duration, was held at the Crystal Hall of Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai. The program of the workshop and given in Appendix-A while the list of key invitees is given in Appendix-B. Many organisations were represented by teams of officers during the workshop.

The workshop was organised to fulfil two main objectives:

1. To view and discuss video movie entitled *Mumbai Disaster Management – Challenges & Opportunities*, prepared by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay under United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan funded project.
2. To discuss the current status of disaster management in the city. This included informing all key stakeholders of the major accomplishments. The workshop theme also included discussions on the major policy, financial and other challenges facing the city's efforts in disaster management.

Workshop Deliberation on Video Movie

The highlight of the workshop was presentation of video movie *Mumbai Disaster Management – Challenges & Opportunities*. The background of the video, and a short summary of the United Nations University project on “Natural Disasters Risk Management: The Geography of Urban Vulnerability” was described by Prof. Ravi Sinha before the video presentation. The video introduction also included a short description of the common conclusions from other cities covered under this project and their relevance to Mumbai.

The video movie was widely appreciated by all the participants. The appreciation covered all aspects: (1) *Script*, that brings out the important issues related to Mumbai, (2) *Stylistic issues* such as video footages, sounds, music etc., (3) *Content*, which is able to sensitise the viewers of significant disaster management issues without sensationalism or bias, (4) *Scientific and technical issues*, regarding the vulnerability of building environment about which the participants had very poor awareness, and (5) *Role of NGOs*, since even the participating NGOs were not aware of absence of NGO involvement in disaster mitigation issues.

During the discussions, the participating NGOs felt that in disaster management, their role can be expanded only through more active cooperation and guidance of the government. This willingness to work with the government on this issue was welcomed by all the participants and highlights the cooperative spirit that is necessary for this work.

Some participants, particularly line officers from the municipal corporation, felt that the video overemphasises the vulnerability of slums. They felt that based on their work

experience, a very large number of city's population (both in slums and formal housing) are extremely vulnerable due to poor housing stock and lack of resilience in city's lifeline infrastructure. They have also agreed to use the video as a training tool in their departments.

The state government and the police department have also shown interest in using the video as a part of their training material.

The media participants were extremely enthusiastic about the workshop. Several news agencies (both TV and print) were present in the workshop and covered the film presentation in their reports.

Other Workshop Deliberations

The workshop also included a presentation on disaster management efforts by the city. This presentation was made by the Additional Municipal Commissioner (WS), who is the highest ranked city officer responsible for disaster management. He presented the salient aspects of city's disaster management plan and their implementation status. The city has recently raised its first Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) team, and the main team members (16 people from fire department, engineering division, medical division and IT division) were invited to briefly explain their capabilities along with their equipment. The Mumbai city's CSSR team is the first in South Asia and their services have been offered by the city to all the neighbouring countries.

The discussions on the city's disaster management efforts focussed on the need for effective coordination between the different government and private organisations after a disaster. The series of recent urban terrorism events and lessons from their post-event control were also described during the discussions. The threat perception of the city, and the relevant Nuclear, Biological and Chemical threats were also presented and discussed. These discussions helped in sensitising the NGOs and media of the complexity of the problems and the constraints in more effective response.

Several useful suggestions were made by the participants to improve the response capability of the city government, and these were taken note of by the concerned officers for future use.

APPENDIX - A
Workshop Program

(Venue: Crystal Room (Central), The Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai)

Thursday, May 8, 2003

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Registration
9:30 AM – 9:35 AM	Welcome by Deputy Municipal Commissioner
9:35 AM – 9:45 AM	Address by Director, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
9:45 AM – 9:55 AM	Address by Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Government of Maharashtra
9:55 AM – 10:15 AM	Keynote address by Municipal Commissioner
10:15 AM – 10:25 AM	Video background and project description by Prof. Ravi Sinha
10:25 AM – 11:00 AM	Disaster Management video presentation
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Tea break
11:15 AM – 11:45 AM	Presentation on disaster management activities of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
11:45 AM – 1:30 PM	Discussions (including short structured presentations)
1:30 PM – 1:40 PM	Closing remarks by Additional Municipal Commissioner (WS)
1:40 PM – 1:45 PM	Vote of Thanks by Head, Civil Engineering Department, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
1:45 PM	Lunch

APPENDIX - B
List of Pre-registered Participants

Sr.	Name	Designation/Organisation
1	Mr. U.K. Mukhopadhyaya	Additional Chief Secretary (Home)
2	Mr. J.D.Veerkar	Principal Secretary, Home (Law & Order)
3	Mr. V.M. Lal	Principal Secretary, Relief & Rehabilitation
4	Mr. Mohana Chandran	Chief Welfare Officer, Mumbai Port Trust
5	Mr. Sunil Vaidya	Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic)
6	Mr. Ankush Shinde	Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operation)
7	Mr. Javed Ahmed	Joint Commissioner of Police (Law & Order)
8	Mr. S M Singla	General Manager, Western Railway
9	Mr. Balkrishnan	General Manager, Central Railway
10	Dr. Pradeep Vyas	Collector, City
11	Mr. S S Zende	Collector, Suburb
12	Mr. Dinesh Panda or Dinesh Salvi	Akashwani (All India Radio)
13	Mr. Mukesh Sharma	Director, Doordarshan
14	Mr. Dhillan	Bombay Electricity Supply and Transport
15	Mr. R. Khilnani	Deputy Director, Home Guards
16	Mr. Roy Joseph	Director, Zee T.V.
17	Mr. Shishir Joshi	Aaj Tak
18	Mr. Rajan Gerg	Times of India
19	Mr. Vivek Goenka	Indian Express
20	Mr. V. U. Madne	Director, Industries Safety & Health
21	Mr. V. L. Joshi	Deputy Director, Industries Safety & Health
22	Dr. V. Subramanyan	Retd. Professor, IIT Bombay
23	Dr. Sharad Kale	SO, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
24	Mr. Milind Kale	SO, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
25	Col. Varma	Chairman, Saritsa Foundation
26	Mr. Nitai Mehta	Managing Trustee, PRAJA
27	Mr. Minar Pimple	Director, YUVA
28	Dr. Homai Modi	Red Cross
29	Mr. Adolf Tragler	Slum Rehabilitation Society, Khar
30	Mr. Shirish Patel	Shirish Patel Associate, Fort
31	Prof. S. C. Lakkad	Acting Director, IIT Bombay
32	Mr. M V Deshmukh	Fire Advisor, Government of Maharashtra

Sr.	Name	Designation/Organisation
33	Smt. Sneha Palnitkar	Director, All India Institute of Local Self Government
34	Smt. Renu Gera	Programme Officer, UNICEF
35	Mr. D. J. Kulkarni	Chief Warden, Civil Defence
36	Mr. Subhash Awate	Inspector General of Police (Human Rights Commission)
37	Prof. Janki Andharia	Head of Department (URCD), Tata Institute of Social Science
38	Mr. Ravindra Singh	President, In-Mumbai Cable Network
39	Dr. Bhatki	Chief Medical Superintendent
40	Mr. K.C. Srivastava	Municipal Commissioner
41	Mr. S.J. Kunte	Addl. M.C. (Western Suburb)
42	Mr. Subrat Ratho	Addl. M.C. (Eastern Suburb)
43	Mr. S.S. Shinde	D.M.C. (Z -I)
44	Dr. G.R. More-Patil	D.M.C. (Z-II)
45	Mr. Vikram Pawar	D.M.C. (Z-IV)
46	Mr. S.M. Chandekar	D.M.C. (Z-VI)
47	Dr. Alka Karande	D.M.C. (Education)
48	Mr. A.G. Haldavaneekar	D.M.C. (Engineering)
49	Mr. R.K. Bhatia	D.M.C. (Spl. Engineering)
50	Mr. S.G. Damle	Director (Medical)
51	Mr. S.V. Kamat	City Engineer
52	Mr. Markandye	Ch.Eng. (S.W.M.)
53	Mr. A.V. Deodhar	H.E.
54	Mr. J.S. Sane	Chief Eng. (D.P.)
55	Mr. D.D. Naik	Chief Eng. (Roads)
56	Dr. G.V. Koppikar	Dean, Nair Hospital
57	Dr. N. Kshirsagar	Dean, KEM Hospital
58	Dr. M.A. Yeolekar	Dean, Sion Hospital
59	Mr. A.D. Jhandwal	Chief Fire Officer
60	Dr. R.M. Kathuria	Executive Health Officer
61	Mr. Ajit Deshpande	Education Officer
62	Mr. R. K. Vale	Asst. M.C. 'A' Ward
63	Mr. Kiran Achrekar	Asst. M.C. 'D' Ward

Sr.	Name	Designation/Organisation
64	Mr. C.D. Chore	Asst. M.C. 'M/East' Ward
65	Mr. V. Prabhu	Asst. M.C. 'K/East' Ward
66	Mr. P. Patil	Asst.M.C. 'H/East' Ward
67	Mr. Sudhir Naik	Asst. M.C. 'M/West' Ward
68	Prof. Ravi Sinha	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
69	Prof. G. Venkatachalam	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
70	Prasadu Babu	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
71	Prashant Soni	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
72	Kishor Jaiswal	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay