



Disaster impact on megacities - tools and strategies for risk mitigation

F. Wenzel (1), F. Bendimerad (2), J. Zschau (3) and J. Fernandez (4)

(1) Geophysical Institute of Karlsruhe University, Hertzstr. 16, 76187 Karlsruhe, germany (Email/Fax-Nr. friedemann.wenzel@gpi.uka.de/+49-721-71173), (2) Risk Management Solutions Inc., Newark, USA (Email: fouadmail@sbcglobal.net), (3) GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany (Email: zschau@gfz-potsdam.de), (4) Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), Kihei, Hawaii, USA (Email: jfernandez@pdc.org)

We will present key initial findings from applied research and experience in implementing an innovative approach to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in megacities. It will introduce state-of-the-art information regarding risk communication, ownership development, and monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk management efforts in megacities. After a sustained work with a network of close to 20 megacities around the world we have identified key areas of a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) agenda in and for megacities. These include steps such as: (1) Promote disaster risk to megacities as an emerging global risk issue; (2) Understanding and communication of risk and vulnerability; (3) Development of tools and methods: Very little exists in terms of knowledge and experience related to megacities DRR. An investment should be made to develop and disseminate megacities-specific risk assessment and risk management tools; (4) Mainstreaming approach: Much of the overwhelming megacities DRR task can be rationalized and understood by associating risk management with the overall planning process of cities. Tools include the risk assessment, vulnerability assessment with satellite imagery, information technology tools for planning and risk communication, development of an urban risk index. Recent work carried out by the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI, www.earthquakesandmegacities.org) and the Center of Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM, <http://www.cedim.de/>).