



**Earthquakes and  
Megacities Initiative**

**assess  
empower  
implement  
sustain**

# Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative

an international  
not-for-profit  
scientific  
organization

A member of the U.N. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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An international, not-for-profit, scientific organization dedicated to disaster risk reduction of the world's megacities

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**There** is now international acknowledgment that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction, and supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships.... Such an approach is to be recognized as an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millenium Declaration.

**~ Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015**  
*World Conference on Disaster Reduction 2005*

who we are

## Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative

**E**MI is an international, not-for-profit, scientific organization dedicated to the reduction of disaster risk in megacities and major metropolises. It was founded in 1998 in response to the urgent need to stimulate urban earthquake preparedness and mitigation in developing countries. EMI serves as a catalyst for the delivery of scientific and technical knowledge to local government officials, policymakers, practitioners, and disaster management technical personnel. Through its Cluster Cities Project, Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Program, and eLearning training platform MEGA-Learn, EMI contributes to the institutional capacity building of local organizations and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the development agenda, planning and daily operations of local governments. EMI is also an advocate of the critical role local governments play in global and regional forums and in implementing the global agenda for disaster risk reduction, such as the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. EMI is registered as a non-governmental organization in the Philippines.

partnering with  
megacities to  
reduce disaster  
risk

An international, not-for-profit, scientific organization



## sustainable and strategic partnerships

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EMI is endorsed by three international scientific organizations, namely, the International Geographical Union (IGU), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). EMI also cooperates with several multilateral programs, inter-governmental institutions and United Nations agencies. Among its major partners are ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, Kobe University, Metropolis, Pacific Disaster Center, ProVention Consortium, World Bank Institute and the United Nations Development Programme. EMI's network of partners also includes about 20 of the largest cities in the world and many academic and professional institutions. At the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, partner cities and institutions pledged to engage themselves in disaster risk reduction, and acknowledged the need for organizations such as EMI to provide technical expertise and play a leading role in developing strategic partnerships to reduce urban and megacities risk.

# what we do

EMI undertakes specialized capacity building projects aimed at enhancing and sustaining the local and regional capacities of megacities. EMI's approach is to empower local institutions and organizations through training, knowledge sharing, and coalition building, within a structured cooperation program involving researchers, scientists, practitioners and stakeholders. Through the Cluster Cities Project, EMI promotes sound disaster risk reduction practices and develops a crop of informed leaders and practitioners. Under the 3cd Program, EMI develops tools and initiates consensus-based planning to engage local stakeholders through focus groups to prioritize issues and move towards implementing and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the development, planning and management of megacities. EMI further works out participatory mechanisms with local institutions to bring science and technology applications to end users, with the goal of enabling them to make informed decisions and set appropriate disaster risk reduction policies and actions.

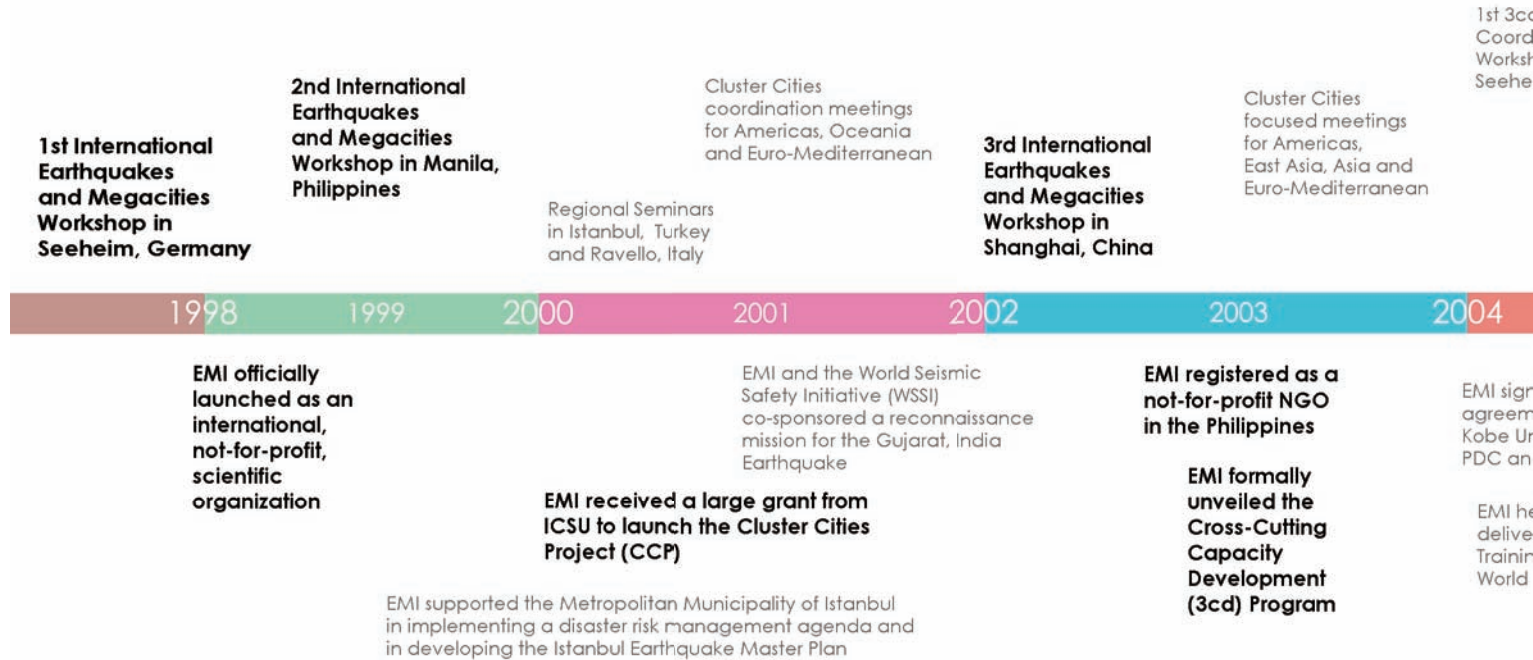
### building local capacity and ownership



## knowledge for capacity development

In support of capacity building, EMI works towards knowledge and information sharing at both local and regional levels mainly through the 3cd Program and Cluster Cities Project. This involves undertaking special workshops, seminars and focus group discussions, establishing databases and directories of resources and activities, coordinating researcher and student exchanges to increase access to information, and conducting training programs. EMI is particularly involved in the development and delivery of an in-house eLearning course on risk-sensitive land use planning, the World Bank Institute's global distance learning program on Natural Disaster Risk Management, and the JICA-sponsored Kobe University-EMI training program on Mitigation Strategy for Mega-Urban Earthquake Disaster. With its large network of partner academic and research institutions, EMI further promotes multi-disciplinary research and city-to-city exchanges to support the development and sharing of tools, methods, knowledge and experience specific to the disaster risk reduction of large, complex areas.

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# 6

ination  
shop in  
im, Germany

EMI, together with PDC, conducted four 3cd field trips in Metro Manila and one in Kathmandu

**EMI and PDC implemented risk communications tools: (1) the Megacity Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Base (MEGA-Know) and (2) the Metro Manila Internet-based Map Viewer (MEGA-View)**

**EMI, together with its partners from CIMNE-Technical Univ. of Catalonia and National Univ. of Colombia-Manizales, initiated the pilot application of the Megacity Indicators System (MEGA-Index) in Metro Manila**

EMI, together with PDC, conducted two 3cd field trips each in Metro Manila and Kathmandu

3cd Program started in Amman, Jordan

EMI, together with EdM, held 3cd workshops in Manila and Mumbai

Americas CCP in Bogota, Colombia and Quito, Ecuador

**MEGA-Learn platform introduced to partners**

Local stakeholders evaluated the 3cd Program's Preparatory Phase (Phase 1) in Metro Manila

2005

2006

2007

ed cooperation  
ents with EdM,  
iversity (RCUSS),  
d Metropolis

**EMI earned UN accreditation as international NGO**

EMI hosted a thematic session and an international symposium at the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan

EMI hosted a workshop session at the International Disaster Reduction Conference in Davos, Switzerland

**EMI became member of the U.N. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

EMI started delivering the World Bank Institute's (WBI) global Distance Learning Program on Natural Disaster Risk Management

elped develop and  
r the "Safer Cities"  
g Program with the  
Bank Institute

**EMI admitted as Full Member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction**

EMI and Kobe Univ. hosted the Asia Megacities Forum in Kobe, Japan

EMI inked partnership with ICLEI



# cluster cities

The Cluster Cities Project (CCP) is EMI's pioneering platform for the establishment of a worldwide network of megacities supporting the paradigm shift from reactive disaster response to proactive risk reduction. The CCP was launched with the support of the International Council of Scientific Unions and the Disaster Management Facility of the World Bank. CCP's main activities include awareness raising, capacity strengthening, and coalition building among city governments and academic leaders to develop a culture of increased communication, transparency, and cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary practices. Partner cities are clustered by region and are engaged in a structured dialogue in order to formulate concepts of disaster management relevant to their environment and resources. CCP is also EMI's mechanism for understanding the gaps and needs within each city, for introducing sound practices and for helping develop strategic approaches that have the support of local stakeholders.

proactive  
regional  
engagement



a worldwide  
network of  
megacities

The CCP groups cities in a regional setting under a framework of cooperation that is brokered by EMI and developed by the participating cities. To date, EMI's CCP partner cities are as follows:

*Americas Cluster*

Bogota, Mexico City, Lima, Los Angeles and Quito

*East Asia Cluster*

Kobe, Manila, Seoul, Shanghai, and Jakarta

*Euro-Mediterranean Cluster*

Cairo, Istanbul, Naples and Tehran

*Oceania Cluster*

Tianjin and Wellington

*South-Central Asia Cluster*

Beijing, Dhaka, Kathmandu, Mumbai and Tashkent

*Observer*

Amman, Karachi

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The Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (3CD) Program is EMI's long-term, inter-disciplinary and multi-partner program aimed at assisting cities to implement sound practices in disaster risk management. It is supported by Kobe University, Pacific Disaster Center, ProVention Consortium and the United Nations Development Program. A collaborative effort with local partners, the 3cd Program is executed through a mainstreaming framework that guides the integration of disaster risk reduction into government policies and functions, and a Disaster Risk Management Master Plan (DRMMP) model that is developed and implemented by local stakeholders in a participatory manner. The 3cd Program also promotes the development of tools and methods for disaster risk assessment and management that enable megacities to understand their risk and take appropriate actions to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.

mainstreaming  
disaster risk  
reduction



## enabling participatory process

The 3cd Program is designed as a cooperative program between EMI, its CCP partner cities, and selected research and capacity building institutions. It comprised of four integrated components that converge towards the implementation of a Disaster Risk Management Master Plan (DRMMP) in each participating city, namely:

1. Analysis of knowledge and practice
2. Training and institutional strengthening
3. Disaster risk assessment
4. Development of a city-wide DRMMP

The DRMMP is simultaneously a process, a framework and a plan. It is a tool to facilitate and promote sound disaster risk management practice, and a social contract to undertake planned activities to reduce risk.

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To fill the gap in the availability of tools and practices that are specific to major metropolises and megacities, EMI and its partners develop specialized training packages and policy- and decision-support tools. To reduce cost and reach a maximum number of users, the tools are delivered over the web on an eLearning platform called MEGA-Learn. Current modules include MEGA-Know, a disaster risk management knowledge base, MEGA-Plan, an eLearning course on risk-sensitive land use planning, and MEGA-View, an Internet-based Map Viewer. EMI is also developing an indicator system (MEGA-Index) to provide benchmarks and measure progress for disaster risk reduction at the local level. These tools are developed and tested with the direct involvement of city practitioners and managers. EMI's strategy to scale up its contribution and to reach as many cities as possible is to partner with local government networks, professional organization and with universities and academic institutions in the dissemination of its tools, training programs, and advocacy agenda.

city-specific  
eLearning  
tools



For more information, contact:

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