

# A network against industrial disasters

## Environmental planning and environmental risk management in India

India has experienced incomparable economic growth in recent years, and the growing need for space near urban centres and the increased use of resources have exposed local populations to environmental risks.

National laws regulate land use and emergency planning, but there is still a lack of proper monitoring and implementation of guidelines, and the corporate sector, the regulating authorities and civil society in general need to implement some serious changes in behaviour.

The focus of InWEnt's support is on establishing and improving modern, demand-oriented consultation and training capabilities at the Disaster Management Institute (DMI) in Bhopal. The DMI acts as an inter-institutional advisor for the implementation of national guidelines for reducing technical risks, and brings together all relevant stakeholders – from industry, administration, fire brigades, hospitals, police, waterworks etc. – to introduce standardised procedures in the elaboration of on-site emergency plans for industrial facilities such as oil refineries or chemical plants. The DMI also organises mock drills in order to gather practical expertise for possible future emergencies.

The challenge now is to move from a few best-practice examples to a nationwide dissemination of appropriate disaster risk management. There are about 1,700

major accident hazard units on the Indian subcontinent, plus a large number of small and medium enterprises with disaster potential.

The diversity and complexity of the necessary capacity building activities all over India makes professional management and co-ordination a must. A core element of the project is the implementation of a Training Management Unit, while an internet-based "Human Resource Development Platform" serves to announce, document and manage the capacity building measures – training courses, awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops and conferences. An integrated user feedback tool helps to evaluate the ongoing activities and detect gaps in the training programme.



The Indian City of Bhopal gained international renown as the site of one of the worst industrial disasters in history. In 1984, thousands were killed when a pesticide plant there released 40 tonnes of a highly poisonous gas. Today, Bhopal plays a key role in the development of a nationwide chemical and industrial disaster management system.



Integrating risk planning into the every day operation becomes a key for business continuity. Public-Private Partnership is a key for Integral Risk Management.

The project is being implemented under the Indo-German Co-operation within the framework of the ASEM programme (Advisory Services in Environmental Management). The collaboration began in 2003. InWEnt has been working in India since 2001 in the field of Disaster Risk Management.

### Central steps of the project:

- Initiation and development of professional and organisational capacity of training providers in environmental planning and risk assessment
- Establishment of partnerships between Indian and German/European institutions that provide capacity building in the areas of environmental/chemical risk assessment, planning and resource management
- Standardisation of training offers and guidelines
- Orientation workshops on the subjects of cross-sector environmental planning for technical and management personnel involved in the implementation of national guidelines and regulations
- Support for local network building between institutions working in the environmental risk assessment field
- Development of marketability of training for environmental risk assessment

**"There is a need to strengthen the existing training institutions and set up additional training institutes in fire, risk assessment, certification, safety audit and emergency planning etc."**

National Disaster Management Guidelines –  
Chemical Disasters, April 2007

### InWEnt – Qualified to shape the future

InWEnt – Capacity Building International, Germany, is a non-profit organisation with worldwide operations dedicated to human resource development, advanced training, and dialogue. Our capacity building programmes are directed at experts and executives from politics, administration, the business community, and civil society. We are commissioned by the German federal government to assist with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations. In addition, we provide the German business sector with support for public-private partnership projects. Through exchange programmes, InWEnt also offers young people from Germany the opportunity to gain professional experience abroad.

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