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शक्ति

SHAKTI

Sustainable Holistic Approach & Know-how Tailored to India



MEGACITIES

Global changes no longer concern individual countries or regions but the world as a whole. The trend towards urbanisation and the increasing number and size of metropolitan areas and megacities in all parts of the world but especially in the developing and newly industrialising countries is a striking example of global change. This restructuring and urban condensation of humankind is happening at a speed that puts the innovativeness and strategic acumen of politics, economics and civil societies to the test. Metropolitan regions and megacities are focal points of sustainable development because they give rise to massive problems in all three dimensions of sustainability through the compression of fluxes of people, resources, goods and capital. At the same time, however, opportunities arise for innovation strategies and for the support of efficient, compact and sustainable economic systems and lifestyles.

Viewed from this perspective, such cities are more and more becoming arenas of decision about global sustainable development. The “megacities of tomorrow” – rapidly growing metropolises about to approach or pass the threshold of becoming a megacity within a few years – are of particular political interest because they offer the chance for precautionary intervention and targeted urban development in order to prevent economic, social and ecological crises and to preserve or create scope for action. To this end, decision makers require a solid foundation of knowledge from research.



Research Programme

“Research for the Sustainable Development of the Megacities of Tomorrow”

The task of the researchers funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in this programme will be to work together with research institutions in the selected countries and regions and in close co-operation with local institutions responsible for urban development in order to devise solutions and strategies for a sustainable configuration of the mega-urban regions of the future and to implement these ideas in the form of pilot studies. Relevant interest groups from politics, economy and society should be included from the outset so that the research issues addressed can be suited to local needs.



16 projects out of 120 proposals were selected
<http://www.emerging-megacities.org>

Projects will be funded in four stages: the first stage (two years) being a preliminary phase in which the concepts described in the submitted project outlines are refined together with the partner country and prepared for implementation; after the successful evaluation three phases will follow (each of three years duration).

Strategic Goals of SHAKTI

Strategies and instruments to cope with growth

- elaboration of implementing strategies and concepts for urban growth on regional and municipal scale, both for new development areas as well as for the existing city in terms of a higher population density and a lack of infrastructure and affordable housing
- identifying precautionary actions to reduce urban sprawl and avoid over-exploitation of natural resources

Sustainable solutions for urban infrastructure

- the selected sectors are water, sewerage and sanitation systems, energy and transportation
- developing integrated concepts for the future infrastructure systems by optimizing the existing infrastructure; focussing on integration (e.g. energy use for water supply), and assessing environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts

A collaborative learning and planning processes

- reflecting and adapting international state of the art planning and technical standards to the Indian cultural context
- fostering public participation in the development process
- integrating monitoring in the decision making process for the long-term development and early warning systems of fundamental changes
- setting up of dissemination procedures

