

## Formation of Mega Cities' Association, India

**Project Name:** Formation of Mega Cities' Association  
**Client Name:** International City/County Management Association  
**Country:** India  
**Length of assignment:** July 2005 - May 2007

### Project Brief

Under the Sustainable Urban Management-II (SUM II) Contract, Urban Management Centre worked to enhance the capacity of India's metropolitan cities' to sustain broad-based economic growth. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) identified specific areas of assistance in selected cities—a total of 8 tasks were identified under the India Urban Initiatives Task Order. UMC in association with ICMA aided the formation of Mega Cities Association to facilitate this growth and development. The organization used existing information where possible and coordinated with the range of stakeholders active with the cities, including other USAID resources, World Bank, IFC, bilateral donors, national, state and local institutions. The main objective of the SUM II India Urban Initiative was

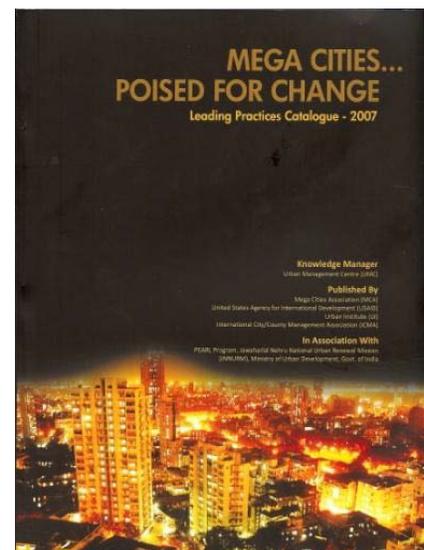


- ✓ To support the economic growth and development of India's major cities through targeted technical assistance to address eminent urban management issues that if addressed will promote sustainable, balanced, growth.
- ✓ To disseminate city-specific actions relevant to other urban centers, providing models and/or lessons learned that encourage balanced growth

### Detailed Description of the Actual Services Provided by UMC

Based on its experience derived from ICMA Washington, a 90-year-old association of city managers and from the process of setting up a total of thirteen City Managers' Associations across India, UMC provided technical assistance to form a Mega Cities Forum for the seven largest cities of India.

The Mega Cities Forum is a platform for mega municipalities heads to discuss and find solutions to issues of local governance, institutionalized cooperation and raise the level of voice to inform national policy. The forum promotes knowledge sharing on approaches, strategies, governance tools, planning, implementation, economic development, service delivery as well as engaging these cities in long-term planning on the country's urban development. The aim of this platform is to facilitate structural reforms directed at improving the economic base and



the delivery of basic civic services, including the urban poor and ensuring long-term sustainability of urban environment.

- UMC assisted in helping foster the development of this seven-city network, support implementation of plans, provide analyses, advice and recommendations on organizational structure, short and longer term activities, staffing, focus, etc.
- UMC drafted the Memorandum of Association for the MCA, facilitated formal registration of the association under the Societies Act. Assisted the newly formed MCA to document best practices across the member cities, prepare a best practices document and organize a sharing workshop.
- UMC also helped the association to plan and conduct its executive committee meetings, in branding the association and launching their website. Eventually, UMC also compiled a leading practices catalogue in 2007 named “Mega Cities... Poised For Change” after the formation of MCA.