

P. G. DHAR CHAKRABARTI, IAS
Executive Director

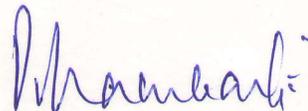
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mumbai with an estimated population of nearly 14 million is the largest urban centre of India. It is also the financial capital of the country, contributing more than half of the total direct taxes and custom duty for the country. Strategically located in the western seaboard of India, Mumbai is exposed to the multiple risks of cyclone, coastal erosion, landslides, earthquakes and epidemics besides the human induced disasters of environmental pollution and chemical and industrial accidents. Climate change and rise in sea level is further compounding the risks of the city.

2. Unprecedented rainfall of July 2005 submerged large part of the city, leading to deaths of more than thousand people and complete disruption of city life for about two days. This worst ever disaster in the city triggered a paradigm shift in city disaster management system with a new institutional set-up in the shape of Greater Mumbai Disaster Management Authority, a comprehensive assessment of the multiple hazards, risks and vulnerabilities and preparation of a series of risk mitigation plans under the expert guidance of the EMI, IIT and other agencies. The proactive city administration has taken up implementation of a number of projects for the prevention, mitigation and preparedness for disaster reduction. These projects are expected to be implemented within a period of five years, which would significantly reduce the risk of disasters in the mega city.

3. I endorse the proposal that in recognition of the significant contribution made by the City administration for a comprehensive risk assessment of the city and designing and developing series of projects for risk mitigation, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai may be bestowed with the **Sasakawa Award** for 2011.


(P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti)
Executive Director