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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Emerging megacities Discussion Paper Series

International research on sustainable development paths of megacities of tomorrow

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Research on emerging megacities

Currently 23 cities have exceeded the 10 million inhabitants' threshold. The number of megacities in the world is expected to grow to 39 in 2025 with 32 of these in emerging economies.

While today cities cater for over half of the world's population, they are facing increasing environmental problems. Whether or not an emerging megacity will be able to cope with expected climate change impact and increased scar-

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city of natural or man-made resources depends on its capacity to change human behaviour in different areas of what constitutes a city.

-hyderabad.de On-going research on complex responses to anticipated climate change impact on emerging megacities aims at generating knowledge for an effective and feasible transition towards sustainable development. Researchers from different disciplines using different approaches seem to overwhelmingly agree that mitigation and adaptation measures are urgently needed. This implies not only identifying available technological options but also exploring institutions – defined as "sets of norms and rules" and governance structures, i.e. those "modes of organization" that are necessary to put institutions into practice. Thus, to arrive at feasible mitigation and adaptation measures, technical solutions and social construction need to be combined.

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Body of the text:

Arial, 12pt., aligned left, single spacing; page numbering in the bottom right hand corner of the page; margins on each side of at least 1.6 cm, 2.0 cm on the top and 3.0 cm on the bottom

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