

## MEGACITY TASKFORCE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

CHAIR: PROF. DR. FRAUKE KRAAS

[www.megacities.uni-koeln.de](http://www.megacities.uni-koeln.de)



**Mission:** „The mission is to apply geographic expertise to problems of megacities and to the theory underlying the principles, knowledge, and methods employed in solving megacity problems. The task force should focus primarily on issues of continental and global scale, and on the restructuring of urban life over the long term, with particular reference to global change in environmental systems and the globalisation of economy, politics, and society. It will work in collaboration with relevant international scientific unions and with relevant IGU commissions and study groups.“ (quoted from the mission statement received from *Ron Abler, Vice President of IGU, in 1998*)

### Objectives

#### a) Research programme and participation in international committee work

- Encouragement of research on the structures and dynamics, the problems and policies of individual megacities, and support of theoretical approaches under a comparative view, with special emphasis on megacities of the developing countries.
- Leading role of the task force in the development, promulgation and dissemination of new research topics on megacities. Broadening of the international discussion.
- Definition and critical assessment of the central problems of megacities: research foci, tasks, and deficits.
- Concentration on selected topics of major research foci. Scientific agenda to be defined and finalised within the task force group.
- Special publications.
- Promotion of modern methods in megacity research (Remote Sensing, Geographical Information Systems, modern qualitative methods of social sciences) in collaboration with relevant organisations.
- Presence at and participation in major international conferences.
- Own IGU-task force booth, itinerant exhibition, poster presence.

#### b) Information und services

- Homepage for (i) general and public information and (ii) communication within the task force.
- Information service and centre for research on megacities (e.g. statistics, map information, pictures, aerial photographs, satellite images, data, publications, bibliography, WWW-links, press contacts and news).
- Communication platform for task force members and corresponding members.
- In the long run: „Best practice“ databank on problem solving perspectives in megacity management.

#### c) Networks and networking

- Support activities leading to a deepened exchange of information regarding megacity research, among geographers and throughout the IGU as well as interdisciplinary.
- Networking with relevant organisations and initiatives.
- Provide assistance with research applications within the community of scientists.

*Frauke Kraas, Cologne, and Günter Mertins, Marburg*

(Chair und Scientific Secretary of the MegaCity TaskForce of the International Geographical Union)

#### Postal Address

Albertus-Magnus-Platz  
D-50923 Köln/Germany

#### Visitors' Address

Otto-Fischer-Straße 4  
Südbau

#### Website

[www.megacities.uni-koeln.de](http://www.megacities.uni-koeln.de)

#### Phone

+49-221-470 7050  
+49-221-470 7055

#### Fax

+49-221-470 4917

#### E-mail

[f.kraas@uni-koeln.de](mailto:f.kraas@uni-koeln.de)  
[u.doerken@uni-koeln.de](mailto:u.doerken@uni-koeln.de)

