

Seismicity, Earthquake Hazard and Rising Economy in Asia

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Asian population of 4.5 Billion, nearly 60% of the world population, are exposed to the most earthquake disaster prone part of the earth. Asian economy, currently at 30% of the world GDP, is a high growth sector driven by countries like China, India etc. However, economic disparity is leading to a large migration towards cities. Urban population of Asia is expected to grow from current 48% to 60%, to a total number of 3.3Billion, by 2050. Most of the Urban Asia with very poor building code implementation and accommodating a large size of economically deprived population, are the most vulnerable from earthquake and other natural disasters. A large coastal area inhabitants are also a high risk group from tsunami-genic earthquakes. A quantitative analysis of human lives lost from major earthquakes normalized for magnitude and population density shows a direct correlation between numbers of deaths to the GDP of the countries. Whereas the developed countries lose few lives from seismogenic disasters, human loss in Asian countries are enormously higher from similar disasters. A better interaction between the government managers to scientific community is important for a better preparedness. Asia-wide scientific resource management, including establishing a common facility for data analysis, sharing and knowledge transfer for mutual benefits is the need of the day.