

Mark Pelling & Sophie Blackburn (eds) (2014). *Megacities and the Coast: Risk, Resilience and Transformation*. Abingdon & New York: Routledge. 248 pp. £95 (hardcover), ISBN 978-0-4158-1504-8

This report is the outcome of international, collective work on the interaction of megacities and the coastal environment. The editors Mark Pelling and Sophie Blackburn argue in their introduction that the lack of interaction between urban research and coastal research is a major gap in the literature. This interdisciplinary volume intends to respond to this gap through a broad synthesis of a study that involved the contribution over 60 authors (including several IPCC lead authors) from the environmental sciences, disaster risk management, governance, and climate adaptation. Its main focuses are environmental and developmental challenges, climate change, and disasters.

Divided into seven chapters, the authors not only explore the causes, impacts, and management of environmental degradation as well as human vulnerability but also highlight 23 coastal megacities across five continents on account of their lessons for planning and risk management. This emphasises the newest knowledge on urbanisation processes, environmental impacts, disaster risk management, and policy response.

According to the authors, the aim of this timely book is to explore the existing dynamic interactions between urban and environmental systems in coastal megacities. Chapter 1, entitled 'Mega-Urbanisation on the Coast: Global Context and Key Trends in the Twenty-First Century', sets the scene for a deep examination of these interactions, delineating some key trends, changes, and concerns facing megacities today.

Chapter 2 is titled 'The Environmental Impacts of Megacities on the Coast' and seeks to analyse human activities related to coastal urbanisation; their resulting consequences for the lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and anthroposphere; and finally ecosystem functions and services for urban settlements and the spatial and temporal patterns of environmental change.

Chapter 3, entitled 'Coastal Megacities, Environmental Hazards and Global Environmental Change', deals with risks and impacts of coastal megacities. Coastlines are facing problems and challenges due to human activities and are becoming susceptible to the impacts of global environmental change.

Next, in Chapter 4, the authors present some 'Contributions of Coastal Megacities to Environmental Changes at Regional and Global Scales', providing examples of impacts on weather, climate, air quality, water, and ecology.

The framework for urban environmental risk management for coastal megacities is presented in Chapter 5 on 'Reducing Risk from Natural Hazard, Pollution and Climate Change in Megacities and Associated Networks'. The authors analyse the contemporary scientific literature, revisiting primary hazards associated with coastal locations and then focus on several experiences of urban planning risk management, mitigation, and adaptation.

Chapter 6 concerns ‘Urban Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Interaction and Integration’. The chapter is comprised of a detailed account of contemporary approaches to urban environmental risks management. In light of the nature and impact of emerging environmental risk in coastal megacities dealt with in the previous chapters, the authors explore future uncertainties and vulnerabilities. They examine the synergies and constraints of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, highlighting the necessity of more integrated approaches to both research and practice.

To complete the book, Chapter 7 presents a number of case studies. These case studies illustrate the themes presented throughout the book, integrating several viewpoints ranging from social to environmental positions. Seven case studies cities (Jakarta, Lagos, Manila, Mumbai, New York, Rio de Janeiro, and Shanghai), most which are based on islands, are presented due to their specific contexts.

In this provocative, compelling book, urban planning and coastal systems join forces. *Megacities and the Coast* is a vital book for those interested in environmental and developmental change, climate change and disasters, and urban island studies.

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