

Megacities – Megachallenge (3): "Informal Aspects of Migration and Health" / "Satellite Based Aerosol Mapping", China

Megacities are more than just cities: they are both results and drivers of global change processes. At the same time, we globally witness a loss of urban governability – processes are taking place unregulated, self-organized, informally. The Priority Program “Megacities – Megachallenge. Informal Dynamics of Global Change” focuses on investigating these aspects of global change and informal processes in megaurban areas.

All in all the Megacities – Megachallenge programme by the German Research Foundation comprises seven research projects in the Pearl River Delta (China) and four projects in Dhaka (Bangladesh) in which around 100 Chinese, Bengali and German academics and researchers from 15 different disciplines are currently working.

Four individual projects in the Pearl River Delta are described on these three boards. The Pearl River Delta is one of the most active economic regions in China, comprising mega-urban growth nodes such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan and Hong Kong.

These two projects, "Informal Aspects of Migration and Health" / "Satellite Based Aerosol Mapping", China, focus on health-related issues in the Pearl River Delta against the back-ground of increasing urbanisation and the environmental problems that this causes, in particular atmospheric pollution and damage to health from aerosol particles and fine dust.



Objectives of the research projects:

- Explanation of the impacts of global change on urbanization, with a special focus on migration and transforming health strategies in megacities
- Understanding of individual and group-specific health strategies of various migrant groups
- Analysis of health policy legislation, in particular the provision of health care for migrants in "urban villages"
- Identification of the significance of aerosol particles as part of the health burden in cities
- Optimisation of aerosol measurement methods

Initial outcomes and results:

- The “urban villages” in the region of Guangzhou have been classified according to the health care available and the burdens on health from environmental factors
- Health risks for migrants from rural areas have been identified and initial results regarding their health strategies have been elaborated
- Existing research findings confirm considerable pollution from aerosol particles in the megacities of the Pearl River Delta
- Initial promising results have been obtained from new methods of aerosol measurement

Duration: since 2006

www.megacities-megachallenge.org/projects/china/3-informal-migrants

www.megacities-megachallenge.org/projects/china/4-climate-health

