

Case Studies in Asia (Bandung, Tashkent, Zigong)

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Introduction

Three cities were chosen from Asia out of 27 pre-selected cities for RADIUS case studies. These are Bandung (Indonesia), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), and Zigong (China). All three cities are very important in their respective countries and regions, although the infrastructures and local conditions are quite different from one city to another.

Bandung is a tropical resort with a cluster of universities and research institutes. It is a rapidly growing city, the largest in the Western Java Province, it has a very high population growth rate and is one of the most important business and trading center in this region. In contrast, Tashkent is the capital of Uzbekistan, and one of the most strategic cities in Central Asia for education, culture, trading and business. Tashkent itself contributes more than one-fifth of Uzbekistan's total GDP. Zigong is a city in southern China, located in the Szechwan Province within mountain ranges. The city is a major industrial center for mechanical and chemical engineering, and salt production. Dinosaur fossils and an ancient salt producing well (more than 1,000 metres deep) are major attractions. Figure 1 summarizes the demographic features of these three cities.

Urban policy and disaster management

Although all the case-study cities are well equipped with modern infrastructures, they differ in the level of understanding of disaster issues, which is reflected in their future growth plan. A brief description of each city is given below.

In Bandung, there is a single coordinating office for emergency response, which becomes active during disasters, receiving reports and transmitting them to other agencies for emergency response. Disaster management is marginal in the urban growth plan. Because annual flooding is the most frequent disaster in the city, the focus is on flood disasters and seismic considerations are almost neglected. Bandung, a relatively new city, has no record of damaging earthquakes since its establishment almost 100 years ago. Therefore, the general awareness of citizens and decision makers of seismic risk is very low.

In contrast, Tashkent has experienced damaging earthquakes, and seismic risk issues are taken into consideration in urban planning. After the 1966 Tashkent earthquake, a special governmental commission was created comprised of ministries, scientists and engineers. There is also the Department for Extraordinary Situations in the Tashkent city government. Disaster management is carried out in accordance with a civil defence action plan, including emergency preparedness. The Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences coordinates earthquake research through the

City	Area (km ²)	Status	Population (in millions)	Annual growth (pop.)	GDP contribution
BANDUNG	168	Provincial capital	2.06	3.48%	9.13% (regional GDP)
TASHKENT	326	National capital	2.08	2.00%	21.00% (national GDP)
ZIGONG	817	Industrial city	3.13	0.74%	7.60% (regional GDP)

Figure 1. Basic demographic data of the case-study cities in Asia.