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**FIRST CONFERENCE ORGANISED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE OECD INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON THE
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-SCALE CATASTROPHES**

**26-27 February 2007
Hyderabad, India**

Information Note for Participants

The first *Conference to be organised under the auspices of the OECD International Network on the Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes* will take place on 26-27 February 2007 in Hyderabad, India. This conference will be hosted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) of India, with the sponsorship of the Government of Japan and the General Insurance Corporation of India.

Registration

Please note that participation is by invitation only. Delegates of the OECD Insurance and Private Pensions Committee and the OECD Committee on Financial Markets are invited to register for this conference. To do so, please contact:

Mrs. Morven Alexander-Drane, OECD
E-mail: morven.alexander@oecd.org

Conference venue

The conference will be held at the ITC Hotel Kakatiya Sheraton & Towers, Hyderabad. Please find below the address and contact person at the hotel:

Ms. Lakshmi Iyer Assistant Manager, Sales ITC Hotel Kakatiya Sheraton & Towers Begumpet, Hyderabad 500 016 India	E-mail: lakshmi.iyer@itcwelcomgroup.in Fax: +(91-40) 2340 1045 Tel: +(91-40) 2340 0132 Cellphone: +(91) 986-619-2185 Website: www.itcwelcomgroup.com
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Accommodation

We have obtained a negotiated rate with this hotel for participants of the conference. Each participant is responsible for the reservation and payment of his/her own accommodation. To make your reservation, please complete the Hotel Reservation Form (attached to your invitation letter) and send it directly to the hotel.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Reservations must be made by **5 February at the latest**, as after this date, the group booking made for conference participants will no longer be held. Reservations thereafter will be subject to availability.

Please note cancellation policy: reservations cancelled after 5 February will be charged one night's retention to the participant's credit card.

Below are the room categories and rates (further details are included on the Hotel Reservation Form):

Room Type	Single occupancy	Twin Occupancy
Executive Club	USD 210/Rs.9000 +5% tax*	USD 235/Rs.10000 + 5% tax*
Sheraton Tower	USD 250/Rs.11000 + 5% tax*	USD 275/Rs.12000 + 5% tax*
Sheraton Towers Exclusive	USD 300/Rs.13500 + 5% tax*	USD 325/Rs.14500 + 5% tax*
ITC One	USD 375/Rs.16000 + 5% tax*	USD 400/Rs.17000 + 5% tax*

**The above rates are subject to 5% tax, on the published rates below and not on the above special rates*

Published rates:

Executive Club:	USD 350/Rs.14000 (single); USD 375/Rs.15000 (twin)
Sheraton Towers:	USD 450/Rs.18000 (single); USD 475/Rs.19000 (twin)
Sheraton Towers Exclusive:	USD 450/Rs.18000 (single); USD 475/Rs.19000 (twin)
ITC One:	USD 500/Rs.21000 (single); USD 525/Rs. 22000 (twin)

Visa for India and Insurance

Please note that a visa is required for most nationalities to enter India and it is recommended that participants verify requirements with the embassy/consulate in his/her country. For information, please visit the following website: <http://www.india-visa.com/>

If participants require an official invitation letter for visa purposes, please contact:

Mr. A. Keshav Rao
Personal Secretary to Member
Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
Parishram Bhavan, Basheerbagh,

Hyderabad – 500 057, A. P., India
Tel.: (91-40) – 6682 0965
Fax: (91-40) – 6682 3334
E-mail: keshav@irdaonline.org

Participants are advised to have adequate medical and travel insurance to cover their visit to India.

Airport transfers to and from the hotel

The hotel ITC Kakatiya Sheraton offers an airport pickup service, at a cost of USD 8 one-way, payable to the hotel upon check-out. This service can be reserved via the Hotel Reservation Form (attached to your invitation letter).

Participants can also book a prepaid taxi at the Airport.

The distance between Hyderabad International Airport and the ITC Hotel Kakatiya Sheraton & Towers is about 3 Kms. and at the currently prevalent rates an ordinary air-conditioned pre-paid taxi from the airport to the hotel should not cost more than USD 7.

There is no airport bus.

Procedural arrangements

The conference will begin at **9h00** on Monday 26 February and will end at **16h30** on Tuesday 27 February. Registration of participants will begin at **8h30** on the first morning.

Working language

The conference will be held in English.

Documentation and website

If you have been asked to contribute a paper or presentation to the conference or wish to submit any relevant background materials, please send your material to:

Ms. Nina Paklina, OECD (email: nina.paklina@oecd.org) **by 1st February at the latest.**

The conference documentation will be posted, as soon as available, on the OECD's website, at www.oecd.org/daf/insurance

Participants will receive a set of documents upon arrival at the conference.

Presentations

Facilities for PowerPoint presentations will be available in the conference room.

Meals and Social Events

Lunch for all participants will be provided on both days of the conference.

All participants are invited to a reception on the evening of Monday 26 February. The venue and time will be confirmed in due course.

The organisers regret that no programme for spouses/partners can be arranged.

For further enquiries please contact:

For further information or enquiries, please contact the following OECD staff:

Mr. Timothy Bishop
tel: + 33 1 45 24 84 66, e-mail: timothy.bishop@oecd.org

Ms. Nina Paklina
tel: +33-1-4524-8478; e-mail: nina.paklina@oecd.org

Ms. Morven Alexander-Drane
tel: +33-1-4524-8836 ; fax: +33-1-4524-1833; e-mail: morven.alexander@oecd.org

TOURISM

The Hotel Kakatiya Sheraton and Towers will be pleased to assist participants with tourism enquiries and can book excursions. Please contact the hotel's Travel Desk:

Email: travelhouse@eth.net

Contact persons:

Ms. Deepa: tel +(91 40) 2341-2850

Mr. Augustine: tel +(91) 994-4935-4003 (mobile)

Mr. Vinod: tel +(91) 986-6672-8994 (mobile)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT INDIA

India, officially the **Republic of India**, is a country in [South Asia](#). It is the [seventh-largest](#) country by geographical area, the [second most populous](#) country and the largest [democracy](#) in the world. India has a coastline of over seven thousand kilometres, and borders [Pakistan](#) to the west, [Nepal](#), the [People's Republic of China](#) and [Bhutan](#) to the north-east, and [Bangladesh](#) and [Myanmar](#) to the east. In the [Indian Ocean](#), it is adjacent to the [island nations](#) of [Sri Lanka](#), [Maldives](#) and [Indonesia](#).

Home to the [Indus Valley Civilization](#), a centre of important trade routes and vast empires, India has long played a major role in human history. [Hinduism](#), [Sikhism](#), [Buddhism](#) and [Jainism](#), all have their origins in India, while [Islam](#) and [Christianity](#) enjoy a strong cultural heritage. Colonised as part of the [British Empire](#) in the nineteenth century, India gained independence in 1947 as a unified nation after an intense [struggle for independence](#). The country has one of the most diverse populations, wildlife, geographical terrain and climate systems.

PLACES OF INTEREST – IN AND AROUND HYDERABD



CHARMINAR located in the heart of the old city, this magnificent edifice built by Mohd Quli Qutb Shah, is the unique symbol of Hyderabad. A small mosque is located on the roof of the edifice. All around the Charminar is a bustling bazar of pearl and jewellery shops, perfume and attar dealers. Close by is the Laad Bazar or the bangle alley with rows of shops selling lacquer and glass bangles.

GOLCONDA FORT founded originally by the Kakatiyas in the 13th Century, the existing structure was expanded by the Qutub Shahi kings into a massive fort of granite with walls ramparts extending some 7 kms. in circumference. The fortress city within the walls was famous for the diamond trade and the Koh-i-noor diamond is said to have come from here. Through an amazing feat of acoustics a hand clap at a certain point below the dome at the entrance reverberates and can be heard clearly at the Bala Hissar, the highest point almost a kilometer away. A sound and light show in the evenings is an added attraction.

Timings : 7.00 p.m.
Duration : 55 minutes
English : Wednesday & Sunday
Hindi : Tuesday, Friday and Saturday
Telugu : Thursday
Closed on Monday

QUTB SHAHI TOMBS about a kilometer from Golconda fort are the tombs of the Qutb Shahi rulers. The tombs are domed structures built on a square base surrounded by pointed arches. The galleries of the smaller tombs are of a single storey while the larger ones are usually two storied. In the centre of each tomb is a sarcophagus which overlies the actual burial vault in a crypt below. The domes were originally overlaid with blue and green tiles of which now only a few pieces remain.

MECCA MASJID The few bricks from Mecca which are embedded in the walls of this impressive mosque have given it its name. Originally started by Sultan Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah, it was completed by the conqueror Aurangzeb. The largest mosque in the twin cities, it can accommodate up to 10,000 worshippers at prayer. Close to the mosque are tombs of the Nizams of the Asaf Jahi dynasty.

SALARJUNG MUSEUM A collection of art objects by Nawab Salar Jung III, this museum housed magnificent exhibits of European and Indian art. Of special interest is the Jade Room containing priceless objects which belonged to ancient Indian rulers like Aurangzeb, Tipu Sultan, Shah Jahan and the Asaf Jahs of Hyderabad. It is closed on Fridays.

LUMBINI PARK is a new amusement park at Tank Bund and has a musical fountain show at 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm daily. It is open to public from Tuesday to Sunday from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm.

FALAKNUMA PALACE built by one of the Paigah nobles Sr Vicar Ul Umra, and later gifted by him to the Nizam. The Falaknuma Palace is 5 kms. south of the Charminar. This palace was designed by Italian architect and houses some rare treasures collected by Italian architect and houses some rare collected by the Nizam. (Special permission is required)

PURANI HAVELI situated in the old city, this was the palace of the sixth Nizam. It now belongs to one of the Trusts created by the last Nizam. (Special permission is required)

TANK BUND Hyderabad's most popular promenade, the Tank Bund dams the Hussain Sagar lake. It is lined with 33 statues of famous



personalities of the state. Recently installed is the monolith of Buddha at the centre of the lake. This lake is the venue of many a water sporting events. A new park near Tank Bund, called Lumbini Park has musical fountains which is a big attraction.

BIRLA MANDIR Overlooking the Tank Bund, the Birla Mandir presents an arresting sight when illuminated in the evening. This magnificent structure built entirely out of marble from Rajasthan, stands atop the Kala Pahad, the twin hillock of the Naubat Pahad. Built by a Birla Foundation over a span of ten years, the main temple is dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara.

DAY RETURN TRIP TO **WARANGAL** 157 km from Hyderabad, a city noted for its beautiful lakes, splendid temples and wild life. Once the capital of the legendary Kakatiya kingdom, it is mentioned by Marco Polo in his travel diaries.

The famous thousand pillar temple in Warangal is a sightseer's delight besides the Ramappa temple (64 km from Warangal) and the Warangal Fort.

NAGARJUNASAGAR located 150 km from Hyderabad. It is an important Buddhist site. The relics of the Buddhist civilisation that were excavated here are carefully preserved on a picturesque island called Nagarjuna Konda, situated in the centre on a man-made lake. 11 kms downstream from the dam are the **ETHIPTHALA** waterfalls, set in a beautiful valley.

THE PEARLS OF HYDERABAD The art of matching, stringing and setting of pearls to create breathtaking articles of jewellery has been perfected by artisans of Hyderabad.

There are 3 varieties of pearls - natural pearls which are formed naturally in oysters, the cultured pearls are cultivated and semi cultured pearls are machine made with plastic and glass.