

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
The Earth Institute, Columbia University, United States of America  
And  
Assam State Disaster Management Authority**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (hereinafter referred to as ASDMA), Guwahati, Assam and The Earth Institute, Columbia University, United States of America (hereinafter referred to as Earth Institute).

**About the Earth Institute of Columbia University:**

The Earth Institute of Columbia University is one of the world's leading centres for integrated study of the protection of the earth's environment and the spread of social and economic opportunities for all people. The Institute comprises more than 30 research centers and some 850 scientists, postdoctoral fellows, staff and students, working across many disciplines to provide solutions for problems in public health, poverty, energy, ecosystems, climate, natural hazards and urbanization. It mobilises science and technology to advance sustainable development with emphasis on the needs of the world's poor.

**About ASDMA:**

Assam is one of the most hazard prone regions in the Asian Sub-Continent with different areas being vulnerable to multiple hazards like earthquakes, floods, landslides, cyclonic storms besides human induced disasters. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority has been set up as mandated by the Disaster Management Act 2005 to bring about the paradigm shift in Disaster Management approach from post disaster relief centric approach to the pre-disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation approach.

**Article I: Purpose:**

The purpose of this MoU between the ASDMA and Earth Institute is to provide a framework for the parties to explore possible areas of research and collaboration on sustainable development towards building a disaster resilient Assam.

**Article II: Scope:**

Subject to this MoU, the scope of activities to be enabled would include the following:

1. Disaster Risk Reduction, including climate adaptation, of Guwahati in the context of Dynamic Growth.
2. Water Resources and Flood and Erosion Risk Mitigation Planning in Assam, taking into account climatic factors.

3. Joint Research on Earthquake Hazard & Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation and Urban Risk Reduction.
4. Developing & Initiating joint research and demonstration projects for Disaster Risk Mitigation in the context of Sustainable Development Goals
5. Help in designing a new Centre for Disaster Management for undertaking capacity building, research activities and developing suitable disaster management strategies for the state of Assam.
6. Promoting methodologies and best practices to develop & Implement participative risk reduction and disaster management practices & policies.
7. Visits by and exchanges of Faculty Members, Students and Officers of ASDMA and the Earth Institute.
8. Consultancy / advisory service on relevant matters as and when required

**Article III: Duration, Termination and Amendment of the MoU**

1. This MoU will be effective from the date of signing by both parties up to a period of 5 years, and may be subject to extensions signed by authorized representatives of both parties.
2. Either party may terminate this MoU by giving three months advance notice in writing provided, however, that either party may immediately terminate this MoU upon written notice if it determines that its continued participation would violate any laws, regulations, policies, or rules applicable to such party, jeopardize the health or safety of its faculty, students, or staff, or adversely affect its accreditation, licenses, or tax status.
3. The provisions of this MoU may be amended at any time with the mutual consent of the parties in writing.
4. The amendment, termination and expiration of this MoU will not affect the terms of activities ongoing under formal project agreements (as described below) at the time of notification of amendment, termination and expiration unless otherwise agreed between the parties.

**Article IV: Special Provisions**



