



National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Kanpur 208 016, India

Durgesh C. Rai
Coordinator, NICEE
Professor, Civil Engineering

NICEE/ NAC

May 19, 2023

July 03, 2023

MEETING OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - NICEE

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please find here a copy of minutes of the 15th meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) held at IIT Kanpur on March 15, 2023.

Sincerely

(Durgesh C. Rai)

Encl: Copy of the minutes of the 15th meeting

Distribution:

Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur

NAC Members

Ar. Balbir Verma, Balbir Verma & Associates, New Delhi
Prof. Mahesh Tandon, Tandon Consultants Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
Dr. Shailesh K. Agarwal, Executive Director, BMTPC, New Delhi
Dr. Keya Mitra, Department of Architecture T & RP, BESU Howrah
Mr. Alok Srivastava, Cengage Publications, New Delhi
Prof. Atanu K. Dutta, Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat
Computers & Structures Inc., India, New Delhi
Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur
Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur
Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Director, IIT Gandhinagar
Prof. C.V.R. Murty, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras

Permanent Invitees

Dean, Resources and Alumni, IIT Kanpur
Head, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur
Professor Incharge, PK Kelkar Library, IIT Kanpur

Special Invitees

Prof. Javed Malik, Department of Earth Sciences, IIT Kanpur
Prof. Chinmoy Kolay, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur
Dr. KK Bajpai, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur

Minutes of the 15th National Advisory Committee (NAC) online meeting of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) held at IIT Kanpur on March 15, 2023

The meeting was attended by:

- Ar. Balbir Verma, Practicing Architect and Past Chairman of IIA (Chairman)
- Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- Prof. Mahesh Tandon, Managing Director, TCPL New Delhi
- Prof. CVR Murty, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras
- Prof. Keya Mitra, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, Howrah
- Prof. Atanu K. Dutta, Principal, Jorhat Institute of Science & Technology, Jorhat
- Prof. Hemant Kaushik, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Guwahati
- Mr. Hemant Kumar, CSIESPL New Delhi
- Mr. Hari Kumar, Regional Coordinator, GeoHazard New Delhi
- Prof. AR Harish, Dean, Research & Development (DORD), IIT Kanpur
- Prof. Meera Shirolkar, Dr. B.N. College of Architecture for Women, Pune
- Prof. Javed Malik, Department of Earth Sciences, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. Chinmoy Kolay, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. Durgesh C. Rai, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Convener)
- Dr. K. K. Bajpai, Principal Scientific Officer, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur
- Cdr. Suresh Ailawadi, Retd., Project Executive Officer, NICEE, IIT Kanpur
- Mr. Shivesh Pandey, Deputy Project Officer, NICEE, IIT Kanpur
- Ms. Shradha Shukla, Project Assistant, NICEE, IIT Kanpur

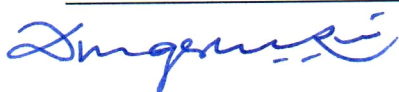
Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur; Prof. S. Ganesh, Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur; Dr. Shailesh K. Agarwal, Executive Director, Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), New Delhi; Mr. Rajiv Sharma, CSIESPL New Delhi; Prof. Tarun Gupta, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur; Prof. R. Gurunath, Librarian, PK Kelkar Library, IIT Kanpur; and Prof. Kantesh Balani, Dean, Resources & Alumni (DORA), IIT Kanpur; could not attend the meeting due to other pressing commitments.

1. Introductory Remarks:

- 1.1. Prof. Durgesh C. Rai welcomed all the members and expressed his gratitude to all present for sparing their valuable time to attend the meeting. He pointed out the importance of the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee and how the past meetings have made critical contributions to the growth of NICEE. He then briefly described the activities of NICEE during the last financial year, the financial status of corpus, earnings and expenditure, functioning and other ongoing activities. He stressed the necessity of increasing the publications for the dissemination of information. He also appreciated the regular support from International Association for Earthquake Engineering. He also informed the committee that the papers of the 17th conference of the World Conference on Earthquake Engineering had been uploaded to the NICEE website.



- 1.2. Ar. Balbir Verma appreciated the well-informed presentation made by Prof. Rai. He stressed the need for NICEE to get involved with the agencies for a consolidated and usable National Building Code, NICEE Guide for Architects and BIS standards.
- 1.3. Prof. Harish, DORD IIT Kanpur appreciated the cohesive teamwork of NICEE and appreciated the activities of the centre. With the COVID pandemic being behind us, he anticipated an increase in outreach activities of NICEE. He assured all-out support to NICEE from the Office of the Dean, R&D. Ar. Varma appreciated the continued support of IIT Kanpur in all activities of NICEE.
- 1.4. Prof. Sudhir K Jain appreciated NICEE's work in the last two decades. He, however, laid stress on the reimagining of the centre urgently for the next two decades. He said that capacity building had been done in the past, but with new online opportunities world over, it was essential for the organization to revamp itself. He suggested forming a review committee to chalk out the steps required for the future direction/ course of NICEE through brainstorming sessions. He also emphasised the need for a mutually beneficial collaboration between Architects and Structural Engineers.
- 1.5. Prof. Mahesh Tandon highly appreciated the suggestion to undertake the annual lectures on subjects related to seismic safety. He advocated for the involvement of practicing architects in such events. He stressed on requirement of professional development programmes throughout an individual's professional career.
- 1.6. Ar. Varma reaffirmed that the architects also shared this notion and confirmed that all teaching faculty and practicing architects would be interested in participating in such lectures.
- 1.7. Prof. CVR Murty appreciated the role of NICEE which is silent but has a significant impact on society. He also strongly advised for NICEE to draw a new road map for the next 10-20 years. He expressed that this should be known as Phase 2 of NICEE and emphasised the importance of obtaining a new avatar for NICEE. He also felt that the country's North East region still remains largely untouched and more work needs to be done in this direction. He also suggested that NICEE should lay more stress on NIT's rather than IIT's. He also advised that the *Earthquake Tips* quiz's scope be broadened to include two publications: (a) EERI's Prof. Andrew Charleson's *Earthquake Safe Buildings of World Housing Encyclopaedia* and (b) NDMA's *Simplified Guidelines for Earthquake Safety of Buildings*. Dr. Murty further stated that the NICEE has a part in the Government of India's Comprehensive National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Programme and that funds have been proposed for various operations.
- 1.8. Mr. Hari Kumar stated that North East area has always been a few years behind the rest of the country and still continues to remain so. A fresh approach needs to be formulated to bring North East at par with the rest of the country. He also suggested that online webinars be conducted to mark the anniversaries of earthquakes in various cities around the country.
- 1.9. Prof. Hemant Kaushik informed the members present that the problems being faced by the country's North East region are multifaceted. The area faces far more frequent natural calamities, such as floods, landslides, etc. than earthquakes. As a result, there is little interest in this issue. However, there has been an increase in stimulus in this area following the 2023 Turkiye earthquake but this is expected to be short-lived and not likely to have an effect in time to come.

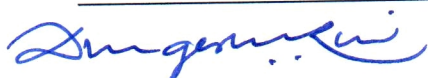


- 1.10. Prof. Atanu Dutta suggested an increase in outreach to Engineering Colleges since the number of Architecture Colleges in the area is much less. He also suggested that an increased consciousness needs to be brought in by all concerned to increase the involvement of the North Eastern region of the country in addressing the problems being faced by the region.
- 1.11. Prof. Javed Malik commented that there has been an increase in anxiety worldwide after the Turkiye earthquake and NICEE should take full advantage of the current scenario to strengthen its outreach activities. He also suggested the introduction of new courses by NICEE.
- 1.12. Dr. KK Bajpai suggested that to increase participation in the school quiz, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) may be approached to direct all KV's to participate in the quiz.

2. Review of the Year 2021-22:

Dr. Rai, during the presentation on the NICEE activities of the past financial year, discussed various issues, including the state of NICEE funds. Some of the highlights are as under:

- 2.1. NICEE continued with its agenda of providing publications and disseminating information to all stakeholders.
- 2.2. NICEE distributed more than 3,400 items of monographs/CDs etc., during the year. The electronic newsletter is now being sent to about 15,000 subscribers of NICEE, every month. In addition, information about important forthcoming workshops is also circulated using electronic media.
- 2.3. NICEE continues to offer three levels of Institutional membership, viz. Platinum, Gold and Silver at ₹ 4.00 lakh and above (US\$ 10,000 and above), ₹ 1.00 lakh and above (US\$ 2,500 and above) and ₹ 25,000 and above (US\$ 550 and above) respectively. As of date we have two Platinum (CSIESPL, New Delhi and IIT Gandhinagar), two Gold (PNC Infratech Ltd., Agra and TCPL, New Delhi) and three Silver subscribing members (Balbir Verma and Associates, New Delhi; NY Kochak Consultant Engineering, Pune and UltraTech Cement Ltd.).
- 2.4. The Architecture Workshop and Inter-School Quiz were held in online mode during the year view COVID Pandemic scenario. The Literature Review Workshop for PG students of Civil Engineering was not held during the year.
- 2.5. The sales of publications during the year was ₹ 1.52 Lakh (against ₹ 1.80 Lakh the previous year) with an average sale of ₹ 342/- (against ₹ 385/- the previous year).
- 2.6. Donations received during the year totaled ₹ ~14.57 Lakh from 59 donors (average donation ₹ 24,700/-), as compared to 41 donors during the previous year who contributed ₹ 5.68 Lakh. Since its inception, NICEE has received ₹ ~165 Lakh as donations from 572 unique donors (besides the original sponsors), indicating tremendous appreciation of NICEE's work by the professional community in India and overseas and society at large.
- 2.7. The total expenditure during the year was ₹ ~26.78 Lakh (₹ ~27.27 Lakh the previous year). This was covered by Sales (6%), Current Donations (54%), and Interest income (40%).

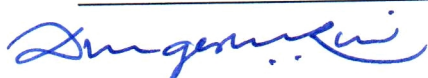


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The following agenda points were discussed during the meeting.

3. Architecture Workshop

- 3.1. Prof. Meera Shirolkar informed the members present that this workshop has been held solely in online mode for the past two years. The workshop plays an important role as Earthquake Engineering is an elective course in most of Architecture Colleges and this workshop serves as the only exposure to earthquake-resistant concepts in architecture design. Although the number of participants showed a marginal improvement over previous years when this workshop was conducted in offline mode, but there was a sharp decline observed in the quality of output produced by the participants, which is not a healthy sign for achieving workshop goals. It was therefore, suggested to revert to offline mode in the current year.
- 3.2. Prof. Rai suggested a hybrid model in which an online workshop would be held on weekends for three to four weeks and the top performers from this would be invited to an offline workshop at IIT Kanpur for a shorter duration of three to four days.

4. Activity for School Children:

- 4.1. Prof. Rai informed the members present that for the current year's online quiz, 200 students had registered but only 80 students took the quiz. This could be due to lack of time in midst of other scholastic activities. Also, it was opined that in-person mode was more suitable and acceptable for the quiz. It was therefore, intended to revert to offline mode for the quiz during the current year.

5. Online Webinars

- 5.1. Prof. Rai informed that in view of the pandemic situation, online webinars were being planned in the current year. Prof. Tandon commented that online activities will continue for a long time to come and therefore using a judicious mix of online and offline activities was the best option in the present scenario.

6. Website and Newsletter

- 6.1. Prof. Rai informed that the newsletter was being sent every month to more than 15,000 members all over the world. However, the security of the website was a major concern and this was being looked into.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks to all present and Ar. Balbir Verma for chairing the meeting.



Durgesh C. Rai
Convener, National Advisory Committee
National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur