



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

February 26, 2021

MEETING OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - NICEE

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please find here a copy of minutes of the 13th meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) held at IIT Kanpur on February 06, 2021.

Thanking you and with best regards,

Yours sincerely

(Durgesh C. Rai)

Encl: Copy of the minutes of the 13th 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 13th National Advisory Committee (NAC) online meeting of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) held at IIT Kanpur on February 06, 2021

The meeting was attended by:

- Ar. Balbir Verma, Practicing Architect and Past Chairman of IIA (Chairman)
- Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. Mahesh Tandon, TCPL New Delhi
- Prof. Keya Mitra, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, Howrah
- Prof. Atanu K. Dutta, Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat
- Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Director, IIT Gandhinagar
- Prof. AR Harish, DORD, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. CVR Murty, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras
- 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, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur
- Dr. S.K. Pathy, PK Kelkar Library, 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

Dr. Shailesh K. Agarwal (Building Material and Technology Promotion Council, New Delhi), Mr. Alok Srivastava (Cengage Learning India Pvt. Ltd.), Mr. Rajiv Sharma and Mr. Hemant Kumar, CSIESPL New Delhi, Prof. Sachidanand Tripathi, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur and Prof. Jayant K Singh, (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 two financial years, financial status of the corpus, earnings and expenditure, functioning and other ongoing activities
- 1.2. Prof. Karandikar, Director IIT Kanpur welcomed all members present on behalf of IIT Kanpur. He complimented NICEE for doing an outstanding work in outreach activities and making efforts towards spreading information through seminars and workshops. He applauded the efforts towards spreading information to school children through an interactive quiz. He suggested the use of mobile apps for spreading information on digital platforms as this could be a very useful mode to increase the visibility of NICEE and also ease search and access of information. He also suggested approaching second and third-tier technical institutes for spreading of information available with NICEE. He



also appreciated the guidance and steering of the National Advisory Committee of NICEE.

- 1.3. Prof. Harish, DORD IIT Kanpur appreciated the cohesive teamwork of NICEE and appreciated the availability of NICEE material not only in English but in vernacular languages also.
- 1.4. Prof. Jain commended the survival and sustenance of NICEE for two decades now even without any recurring grant. He commented that the amount of support being received by NICEE through donations was substantial but needed to be scaled up further in the forthcoming years. He appreciated the suggestions of Prof. Karandikar and advised the NICEE team to work actively on the same. He advised that the presence of NICEE at IIT Kanpur can be leveraged mutually by both the institute and NICEE. He advised creation of a reading room/visitor center for NICEE where all publications and its various activities can be exhibited. The space can be used for creating new videos also. He also suggested to assemble powerful groups in earthquake prone regions such as NE regions, Uttaranchal, Sikkim, etc. to conduct concerted programmes for disseminating earthquake-related information. If need be, a small grant can be allocated by NICEE for conduct of such events for benefit of society at large. At this juncture, Prof. Karandikar had to leave view prior commitments.
- 1.5. Ar. Verma appreciated being able to meet the team, though online, after a gap of almost two years in view of the pandemic situation. He appreciated the good and continued work of NICEE even in the present scenario which justifies its existence and sustenance. He suggested an increase in the awareness programmes being conducted by NICEE and making concerted efforts towards awareness programs among various government agencies regarding activities of NICEE.
- 1.6. Prof. Tandon commended the impressive work being done by NICEE. He suggested increasing efforts towards awareness about NICEE and its programmes making extensive use of media, internet, mobile app and all other possible routes.
- 1.7. Prof. Mitra commented on not being able to conduct the Architecture Workshop during the last year due to the pandemic situation and suggested conducting the same this year on an online platform. This was expected to increase the reach to the participants. She also suggested that based on the experience gained from the Architecture Workshops over more than a decade it was strongly felt that the publication *Architectural Teaching Resource Material on Earthquake Design Concepts of Teachers of Architecture Colleges* needed a revision and upgradation.
- 1.8. Prof. Malik after appreciating the work of NICEE suggested use of mobile apps and increased online seminars in order to increase the outreach manifold. He also suggested creation of cartoon films for school children to increase awareness regarding earthquake safety and their enthusiasm towards the same.
- 1.9. Prof. Dutta suggested increase in outreach to Engineering Colleges. As per the experience gained by him, online platform was passive in impact and therefore, more stress should be laid on physical contact with Engineering Colleges.
- 1.10. Dr. Pathy suggested merging NICEE publications with the general section of library. Prof. Rai stated that we would prefer to have a separate area designated for NICEE. However, this suggestion will be looked into, especially in view of Prof. Jain's suggestion of visitor center for NICEE



2. Review of the Year 2018-19 and 2019-20:

Dr. Rai during the presentation on the NICEE activities of the FYs 2018-19 and 2019-20 discussed various issues including the state of NICEE funds. Some of the highlights of the two years include:

- 2.1. NICEE continued with its agenda of providing publications and disseminating information to all.
- 2.2. NICEE distributed more than 12,000 items of monographs/CDs etc. during the year 2018-19 and more than 5,400 items during 2019-20 including copies of the periodical (*Earthquake Engineering Practice*). The electronic newsletter is now being sent to more than 15,100 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 one Platinum (CSI Berkley), two Gold (PNC Infratech Ltd., Agra and IIT Gandhinagar) and one Silver subscribing member (Balbir Verma and Associates, New Delhi).
- 2.4. Efforts continued in the direction of engaging the undergraduate students of architecture towards earthquake safety. The annual architecture workshop was conducted at IIT Kanpur during June 17- 23, 2018 in which 61 students from 16 architecture colleges representing 14 cities of India participated. During July 01-07, 2019 60 students from 14 architecture colleges representing 13 cities of India participated.
- 2.5. The annual Literature Review Workshop for PG students of Civil Engineering was held during June 07-16, 2018. This was attended by 29 participants from 14 colleges across India. During June 27-July 06, 2019 4 participants from 4 colleges across India participated in the workshop.
- 2.6. The project aiming to sensitize the school-going children about seismic safety which was started in 2009 has met with reasonable success during the year. More than 500 schools from about 100 cities across the country have participated till date. Like previous years, the final round of the quiz was conducted at IIT Kanpur on January 26 in remembrance of the Bhuj earthquake. The winning team was from Sheling House, Kanpur in 2018-19. During 2019-20, the first position was shared by Sheling House Kanpur and Centre Point School, Wardhman Nagar, Nagpur.
- 2.7. The sales of publications during the year 2018-19 was ₹ 11.05 Lakh (against ₹ 8.58 Lakh the previous year) with an average sale of ₹ 4,260/- (against ₹ 3,274/- the previous year). The sales of publications during the year 2019-20 was ₹ 9.62 Lakh (against ₹ 11.05 Lakh the previous year) with an average sale of ₹ 4,878/- (against ₹ 4,260/- the previous year).
- 2.8. Donations received during the year 2018-19 totaled ~₹ 15.45 Lakh from 47 donors (average donation ₹ 32,866), as compared to 61 donors during the previous year who contributed ₹ 13.95 Lakh. During the year 2019-20 donations of ~₹ 15.72 Lakh from 58 donors (average donation ₹ 27,108), as compared to 47 donors during the previous year who contributed ₹ 15.45 Lakh was received. Since its inception, NICEE has received ~ ₹ 142 Lakh as donations from 554 unique donors (besides the original sponsors) indicating



a tremendous appreciation of NICEE's work by the professional community in India and overseas and society at large.

- 2.9. The total expenditure during the year 2018-19 was ₹ 40 Lakh (₹ 51 Lakh the previous year). This was covered by Sales (27%), Current Donations (38%), and Interest income (35%). The total expenditure during the year 2019-20 was ₹ 40 Lakh (₹ 40 Lakh the previous year). This was covered by Sales (24%), Current Donations (39%), and Interest income (37%).

The following agenda points were discussed during the meeting.

3. Activity for School Children

- 3.1. Prof. Rai stated that in the present situation it didn't look feasible to conduct the quiz for school children in the regular pattern as in yesteryears. It was therefore proposed to convert the existing quiz into an online mode which would be conducted during the current year. The students will be encouraged to take the online quiz which would be evaluated instantly and scores recorded. The top scorers can then be invited on January 26 for the final quiz.
- 3.2. Prof. Mitra applauded the idea and commented that this would help students from the North-East Region also to participate who hesitated view travel distance and time involved. A list of schools can be sought from CBSE and ICSE boards. Prof. Dutta commented that this mode was likely to attract more participation from schools in far-flung areas. Prof. Rai suggested that school teachers who motivate students to participate in such activities can also be approached. Prof. Mitra suggested that posters can be made and sent to schools for display which was likely to enthuse students to participate in the quiz. She volunteered to attempt making a poster for the same.
- 3.3. This proposal was accepted by the committee in principle and attempts to put it practice should be initiated.

4. Online Webinars and Architecture Workshop:

- 4.1. The two agenda points being similar in nature were discussed together.
- 4.2. Prof. Rai suggested that the pre-recorded lectures available with NICEE may be run once a month on a trial basis to evaluate the response on the same. Depending on the feedback received live lectures or recorded lectures or a palatable mix of these could be used subsequently.
- 4.3. Prof. Tandon suggested that on these lines lectures for school children can also be initiated. He also suggested that these lectures be attempted on a quarterly basis instead of once a month duration to gauge the response. Ar. Verma concurred this view and suggested attempting short films also for the purpose.
- 4.4. Prof. Mitra stated that the physical availability of faculty and students for the Architecture Workshop was doubtful. She suggested attempting an online format for the workshop also. This was likely to attract students from remote regions also, who hesitated participating in the workshop view long physical distance involved in the location of their college/ residence and venue for the workshop. This was also likely to co-opt more faculty members and engage professionals for a richer experience during the workshop. June/ July was considered to be the ideal slot for the workshop. Jam board could be used for scrutiny/ evaluation of the project/ design assignment being submitted by the participants.



- 4.5. This proposal was also accepted in principle and efforts to put it into practice were advised.

5. Financial Position

- 5.1. The Committee felt that the present financial situation of NICEE was satisfactory. However, efforts should be made to improve upon the same. The webinars and online workshops should not be priced as of now. A decision could be taken on the same depending upon the feedback received. Also, attempts can be made to increase corporate participation in the activities of NICEE. To enhance corporate participation corporate visibility during the event should also be taken care of.

6. Other Future Activities

- 6.1. Prof. Tandon suggested that recorded lectures can be tried out with 4-5 panelists from India and abroad. He also suggested that raising funds is not a problem that is unique to NICEE. This is being experienced in all sectors. CSR can be utilized for the same ensuring that the corporates get a suitable time slot during the event sponsored by them.
- 6.2. Prof. Tandon also suggested that NICEE Newsletter should also include various activities related to seismic design code development by various bodies, such as Bureau of Indian Standards, Indian Road Congress and other professional organizations, so that more awareness and wider participation can be encouraged.
- 6.3. Prof. Jain suggested concerted efforts for fund raising be made. A powerpoint presentation on activities of NICEE can also be prepared which can be used effectively to capture attention and persuade potential contributions to NICEE.
- 6.4. Prof. Jain also suggested that the Covid pandemic has presented us with many opportunities which should be leveraged to promote seismic safety among various stakeholders. A well-designed program such as webinar lecture or conversation series can be developed which should be of high quality with a focus on India-centric topics that are relevant and useful to participants with possible live interaction.
- 6.5. Ar. Verma suggested that NICEE should collaborate with various government agencies, such as BMTPC, NDMA, etc., to promote earthquake-resistant confined masonry building typology for many ongoing projects under the Housing for All scheme.
- 6.6. Prof. Rai suggested that making e-books of NICEE publications can also be attempted.

It was opined that the online meeting was no less effective than the in-person meeting. There being no other points, 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
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Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur