



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

Durgesh C. Rai
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Professor, Civil Engineering

NICEE/NAC

August 02, 2024

September 05, 2024

MEETING OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - NICEE

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find here a copy of minutes of the 16th meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) held at IIT Kanpur on May 24, 2024.

Sincerely


(Durgesh C. Rai)

Encl: Copy of the minutes of the 16th meeting

Distribution:

Prof. Manindra Agrawal, 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 and Planning, IEST Shibpur

Mr. Hari Kumar, Geo Hazards International, New Delhi

Prof. Hemant Kaushik, IIT Guwahati, Guwahati

Prof. Atanu K. Dutta, Jorhat Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat

Rep of Computers & Structures Inc., India, New Delhi

Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur

Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Vice Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University

Prof. C.V.R. Murty, Professor, 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. Chinmoy Kolay, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur

Dr. KK Bajpai, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur

Minutes of the 16th National Advisory Committee (NAC) online meeting of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) held at IIT Kanpur on May 24, 2024

The meeting was attended by:

- Ar. Balbir Verma, Practicing Architect and Past Chairman of IIA (Chairman)
- Prof. Mahesh Tandon, Managing Director, TCPL New Delhi
- Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- 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
- Prof. Priyanka Ghosh, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. Kantesh Balani, Dean, Resources & Alumni (DORA), IIT Kanpur
- Dr. Hari Kumar, Regional Coordinator, GeoHazards International, New Delhi
- Prof. Nandini N, Librarian, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. Jayandharan G Rao, Associate Dean of Research & Development, 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
- Dr. Susanta Pathy, Assistant Librarian, IIT Kanpur
- Cdr. Suresh Ailawadi, Retd., Project Executive Officer, NICEE, IIT Kanpur
- Mr. Shivesh Pandey, Project Officer, NICEE, IIT Kanpur
- Ms. Shradha Shukla, Project Assistant, NICEE, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. Manindra Agarwal, Director, IIT Kanpur; Prof. S. Ganesh, Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur; Prof. CVR Murty, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras; Dr. Shailesh K. Agarwal, Executive Director, Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), New Delhi; Mr. Rajiv Sharma, CSIESPL New Delhi, Mr. Hemant Kumar, CSIESPL New Delhi could not attend the meeting due to other pressing commitments.

1. Introductory Remarks:

- 1.1. Prof. Durgesh 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 about the activities of NICEE during the last financial year, financial status of corpus, earnings and expenditure, functioning and other ongoing activities. He stressed on the necessity of increasing the publications for dissemination of information.
- 1.2. Ar. Balbir Verma appreciated the well-informed presentation made by Prof. Rai. He stressed on need for NICEE to get involved with the agencies for a consolidated and usable National Building Code and BIS standards. He advised NICEE to look forward to support from other colleges and institutes.
- 1.3. Prof. Kantesh Balani, DORA IIT Kanpur appreciated the 25 years of sustained team work of NICEE and appreciated the activities of the centre. He advised to enhance the outreach activities of NICEE. He made a special mention of the content rich NICEE



website and Newsletter. He suggested enhancing the number of Institutional Members and seeking support from them. In response, Ar. Varma appreciated the continued support of IIT Kanpur in all activities of NICEE.

- 1.4. Prof. Priyanka Ghosh, Head CE, IIT Kanpur observed that he has been watching activities of the centre with considerable interest since he joined IIT Kanpur. The knowledge which has percolated to general community by efforts of NICEE was highly appreciated by him. He appreciated the efforts by the centre to educate the students with special mention of Architecture Students. He also mentioned that the centre was pride of Civil Engineering Department.
- 1.5. Prof. Mahesh Tandon appreciated the thorough presentation by the convener and was happy with the overview of activities of the centre. He stressed that more emphasis should be laid on bridges and structures in addition to buildings. He mentioned that NICEE's representation should be ensured in IS/IRC Code committees responsible for developing seismic design codes of bridges, buildings, etc. and other such activities.
- 1.6. Prof. Hemant Kaushik, IIT Guwahati mentioned that he was ensuring selection of articles for EEP which will helpful for high seismic zones IV and IV of the country. He also made a mention that schools from North Eastern region of the country find it difficult to travel to Kanpur and also they have a different school schedule, which probably is reason of their low participation in Earthquake Tips Quiz program. He also suggested some activities for research students (Masters'/PhD) to promote wider collaboration and networking among them. NICEE could also create a repository of select strong ground motions, especially from Indian earthquakes as well as widely used software to process them for various decision making in the pursuit to help both research and practice.
- 1.7. Prof. Sudhir K Jain appreciated NICEE's 25-long years' of impressive work despite not receiving any direct recurring grant from any Government and IIT Kanpur and successfully managed and operated by self-generated financial resources. He, however, was happy to note a good mix of fund utilization for the center activities which was made up of contribution from Sales of publications - 20%, Donations made during the year -40% and Interest from the endowment - 40%. He said that disastrous effects of earthquake have been wiped from the memory of general public since there was no major earthquake in India since 2001 Bhuj earthquake. He advised the centre to be ready for such an event in near future and consider increasing staff for such an eventuality. Moreover, attracting funds for earthquake activities become increasingly difficult, therefore, it is important to rationalize the financial plan of each of NICEE activities with respect to user's fee and expenses incurred.
- 1.8. Dr. Hari Kumar mentioned that school programme by NICEE was a very vibrant and all attempts should be made to increase its reach and participation. Pre-COVID in-person preliminary round of quizzes conducted in various schools should be revived. Remembering past earthquakes on their anniversaries is a right step to continuously remind the need for seismic safety. NICEE should collaborate with other organization active in the construction field, such as CDRI. He also emphasized the need to increase the subscriber base of NICEE and networking. He also said that organizational support for workshops and donations be sought.
- 1.9. Prof. Mitra mentioned that since there were not many colleges in zone IV and IV and also with their different schedules it was difficult to get participants from these areas.



Also suggested that institutions at Guwahati, Jorhat, etc. can be used as resource center for the activities in the north-eastern states.

- 1.10. Prof. Dutta commented that 14 years of exposure to NICEE was very enriching. He also suggested for a national mandate for making seismic safety as a compulsory subject.
- 1.11. Dr. Bajpai suggested that faculty from NIT's should be contacted for workshops and other online lectures.

2. Review of the Year 2022-23 and 2023-24:

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.
- 2.2. NICEE distributed around 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 the 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 on date we have two Platinum (CSIESPL, New Delhi and IIT Gandhinagar, NBCC), two Gold (PNC Infratech Ltd., Agra and TCPL, New Delhi) and three Silver subscribing member (Balbir Verma and Associates, New Delhi; NY Kochak Consultant Engineering, Pune and UltraTech Cement Ltd.).
- 2.4. The Architecture Workshop was attended by 61 participants during 2023 which was conducted in the in-person mode first time since the Covid years.
- 2.5. The 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.
- 2.6. The sales of publications during the year 2022-23 was ₹ 1.20 Lakh (against ₹ 1.52 Lakh the previous year) with average sale of ₹ 554/- (against ₹ 342/- the previous year). The sales of publications during the year 2023-24 was ₹ 1.05 Lakh (against ₹ 1.20 Lakh the previous year) with average sale of ₹ 295/- (against ₹ 544/- the previous year).
- 2.7. Donations received during the year 2022-23 totaled ₹ ~14.76 Lakh from 36 donors (average donation ₹ 41,004/-), as compared to 59 donors during the previous year who contributed ₹ 14.57 Lakh. Donations received during the year 2023-24 totaled ₹ ~14.82 Lakh from 31 donors (average donation ₹ 47,821/-), as compared to 36 donors during the previous year who contributed ₹ 14.76 Lakh. Since inception, NICEE has received ₹ ~183 Lakh as donations from 580 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.
- 2.8. The total expenditure during the year 2022- 23 was ₹ ~27.28 Lakh (₹ ~26.78 Lakh the previous year) and during 2023-24 was ₹ ~38.36 Lakh (₹ ~27.28 Lakh the previous year). This was covered by Sales (20%), Current Donations (40%), and Interest income (40%).



The following agenda points were discussed during the meeting.

3. Architecture Workshop

- 3.1. Prof. Mitra informed the members present that this workshop has been held in offline mode during this year. We are trying hybrid mode this year and decision will be taken based on the response. Prof. Mitra also emphasized the need to reach more architecture colleges as well as larger faculty group for resource persons to the workshop. Prof. Mitra also suggested to hold a training of trainers (ToT) workshop for architecture faculty on seismic design issues, possibly in collaboration with Council of Architects. To encourage students participation from north-eastern states, external sponsorship can be explored to lessen the financial burden of travel and other expenses.

4. Activity for School Children:

- 4.1. Prof. Rai informed the members present that in the current year, 390 students had registered for the online quiz but only 45 participated in the quiz. This low participation could be due to time constraints. It was suggested that an in-person mode would be more suitable and accepted for the quiz, so the plan is to switch to offline mode for the current year's quiz.

5. Annual Workshops/ Seminars

- 5.1. Prof. Rai mentioned that specialized workshops were being planned for the current year. As per the suggestion of Prof. Tandon, topics such as bridges, water tanks, and other relevant subjects will be included. The goal was to increase such activities in metropolitan cities. It was emphasized that we should pool our resources to make these workshops successful. Ar. Verma suggested that efforts should be made to secure industry-sponsored speakers. He also proposed the formation of sub-committees to pursue and support these subjects.

6. Website and Newsletter

- 6.1. Prof. Rai mentioned that the newsletter was being sent every month to over 15,000 members worldwide. However, the security of the website was a major concern and was being addressed at appropriate levels.

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
National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur