

Minutes of the 3rd National Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) held at IIT Kanpur on 29 November 2003

1. The meeting was attended by:

Professor Mahesh Tandon, MD, Tandon Consultants Pvt. Ltd., N Delhi Chairman
Professor Kripa Shanker, Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur
Professor Deepak Kunzru, Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur
Professor R.N. Iyengar, Department of Civil Engineering, I.I.Sc. Bangalore
Professor Ravi Sinha, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Bombay
Professor S Basu, Head, Department of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee
Shri H.S. Kushwaha, Head, Reactor Safety Division, BARC Trombay, Mumbai
Shri N.K. Yadav, Superintending Engineer, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Kanpur (on behalf of Sri S.C. Vijay, DDG(C), DOT HQRs, New Delhi)
Professor Sudhir K. Jain, Dept of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur Convener
Dr. Bhooshan Lal, Librarian, PK Kelkar Library, IIT Kanpur (Permanent Invitee)
Professor C.V.R. Murty, Dept of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitee)
Professor Durgesh C. Rai, Dept of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitee)
Professor Javed N. Mallik, Dept of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitee)
Dr. K.K. Bajpai, Dept of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitee)

2. Professor Kripa Shanker, Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur welcomed the members to the third meeting of the NAC. He recalled the press conference held earlier in the day for release of the Hindi translation of IAEE publication on *Guidelines for Earthquake Resistance Non-Engineered Construction*. He commended the role of group of faculty members at IIT Kanpur involved in earthquake engineering research and dissemination of information through NICEE to all sectors of the society (teachers, students, researchers, public, professionals, etc.). He stressed the need for creation of an *information map* so that those who do not understand earthquake engineering can also appreciate what NICEE is doing.
3. Professor Mahesh Tandon in his opening remarks appreciated the achievements of NICEE which are quite visible and said it is now time to document these achievements. He suggested that we should look into the future and ask questions such as: what we want to achieve, what are our objectives, and how to achieve them. He suggested that NICEE should become a household name like FEMA; for instance, if one wants information, one simply goes to the web site of FEMA in USA). He felt that there is a need to make a road map to achieve this goal. He also stressed that there is a need for information on design of structures against terrorist attacks (*Hardened Facilities*), that is, in case of a blast, disproportionate collapse should not occur. He advised NICEE to

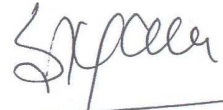
include this topic also within its activities considering a close relationship between earthquake engineering and engineering against blast loads.

4. Professor R. N. Iyengar opined that in USA legal frame work exists on disaster mitigation. For making NICEE to function like FEMA in USA, involvement of Government is necessary to frame a bill in this regard. He cited another example that in U.K., Reservoir Safety Law ensures earthquake analysis of a reservoir.
5. Professor Sudhir K. Jain, Coordinator, NICEE, distributed the copies of the reports of various activities of NICEE during last one year along with statement of accounts. He made a presentation on NICEE activities and discussed various issues including operation of NICEE funds. He also proposed some new initiatives during his presentation.
6. Review of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:
 - a) Professor S. Basu agreed to follow up regarding the catalogue of literature available at IIT Roorkee for uploading on NICEE web site. Dr. Basu also agreed to follow up on providing the list of new books/ publications purchased at IITR to NICEE.
 - b) Dr. Bhooshan Lal presented the first draft of Earthquake Engineering Thesaurus. The committee thanked Dr. Lal and his colleagues for their efforts and requested them to continue further work in this direction.
 - c) Professor Ravi Sinha agreed to shortly provide the brief descriptions of the BIS codes on Earthquake Engineering to be uploaded on NICEE website.
 - d) Professor Jain briefed the members that the decision of previous meeting regarding development of code-like guidelines by NICEE was not implemented in view of a larger project awarded to IITK by GSDMA in which colleagues from different institutions are participating. The GSDMA project enables similar efforts but with additional resources and with output ensured in a time bound manner. The Committee suggested that the documents developed under this project be disseminated through NICEE web site in addition to other possible means.
 - e) Professor Jain briefed the committee that in view of other activities, NICEE could not start efforts towards creating a directory of personnel in India in Earthquake Engineering. Professor Ravi Sinha informed that DST has prepared a directory of S&T personnel and NICEE may ask the DST to provide the list of personnel in the area of earthquake engineering.
7. Professor Iyengar informed that some of the very old publications of GSI are available at IISc Bangalore library which can be scanned and saved on CD's for NICEE library. This idea was welcomed by all. Dr. Bhooshan Lal and Professor Iyengar agreed to follow this up.
8. Dr. Bhooshan Lal agreed to the suggestion of Professor Mahesh Tandon to put list of earthquake engineering publications at IIT Kanpur on NICEE website. He further agreed to compare the list with available literature at other IITs/IISc and to list out what is available elsewhere but not available at IITK.

9. The Committee commended NICEE for successfully completing Hindi translation and publication of the IAEE manual. It encouraged NICEE to vigorously disseminate these to the interested public and professionals. Further, it encouraged NICEE to continue to look for opportunities for getting translations done in other Indian languages.
10. Professor Mahesh Tandon suggested that efforts be made by NICEE to develop some language-independent resource materials. Professor Iyengar informed that CBRI had in the past done some such work and that he will provide some visual materials from his personal collections. He also suggested that Dr. Shailesh Agarwal of CBRI, Roorkee may also be able to help in providing copies of other materials developed at CBRI. Prof. Ravi Sinha informed that some such materials have also been developed by BMPTC Delhi.
11. Professors Ravi Sinha and Durgesh C. Rai briefed the committee about their observations on the quality of Masters theses received till date at NICEE from the participants of the first workshop. It was felt that many participants of the first workshop have not yet completed their thesis and it was decided that NICEE may wait for six more months. Thereafter, a committee will short list possible winners of the best thesis award. The Committee further decided to offer a similar best thesis award to the participants of the second workshop held in March 2003.
12. The Committee felt that timing of the review workshop for Masters students be advanced to June-July, since in many colleges the students do not decide on their thesis topic by March.
13. The committee commended the efforts of NICEE in organizing the literature review workshop for faculty members and suggested continuation of the same in the years ahead.
14. Professor Jain briefed the committee that with two e-conferences organized by NICEE, the expectations of the professionals towards such activities became beyond the available manpower at NICEE. Hence, NICEE encouraged formation of Structural Engineers Forum of India (SEFI), a web-based platform for the professionals to exchange ideas and information. SEFI has been doing exceedingly well in about ten months of its existence and needs to be nurtured in its initial phase by NICEE. The Committee endorsed the suggestion to provide financial support to SEFI to the extent of Rs 50,000 per year for two years.
15. It was suggested that the activities of Ministry of Home Affairs and UNDP Delhi related to earthquake disaster mitigation should be publicized through NICEE web site.
16. The Committee discussed the idea of creating a Network of Structural Engineers for Earthquake Emergencies (NSEEE). While other members were generally very favourable towards NICEE taking up such an effort, Professors Iyengar and Sinha had reservations that (a) it is beyond the scope of NICEE, (b) engineers require substantial training and quality monitoring before they can be useful for earthquake emergencies, and (c) Ministry of Home Affairs may take up a similar effort in near future in a more structured manner. After considerable discussions, it was decided to organize an e-conference (possibly at the time of anniversary of Gujarat earthquake in January 2004) on this concept to seek the opinion of the professionals. The members present agreed to vigorously participate in debating the issue through e-conference.

17. The committee discussed the financial position of NICEE, and encouraged it to enhance its spending on the worthwhile projects. It recommended that NICEE approach potential contributors for large sums to its endowment. The idea of creating a paid membership was discussed; it was felt that time is not yet right for instituting such a membership. The Advisory Committee also felt that NICEE could request IITK for an appropriate annual budget to partially meet its needs.
18. The Advisory Committee expressed its appreciation towards BRNS for the three-year grant that is to expire in the current financial year. The Committee encouraged NICEE to seek similar grant for next three years from BRNS by submitted another proposal.

The meeting ended with praising NICEE for its effort towards knowledge dissemination in the area of earthquake engineering and with a vote of thanks to Professor Mahesh C. Tandon for chairing the meeting.



Sudhir K. Jain

Convener, National Advisory Committee
National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering

Approved by Professor Mahesh C Tandon, Chairman, National Advisory Committee through email dated 18.12.2003

Distribution:

- Professor Mahesh Tandon, Managing Director, Tandon Consultants Pvt Ltd, N Delhi
- Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur
- Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur
- Professor R. N. Iyengar, Department of Civil Engineering, IISc Bangalore
- Dr. Ravi Sinha, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Bombay
- Prof. S Basu, Head, Dept of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee
- CMD, HUDCO, HUDCO Bhawan, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi
- Shri N.K. Yadav, Superintending Engineer, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Kanpur
- Sri S.C. Vijay, DDG(C), DOT HQRs, New Delhi
- Sri R K Gupta, Executive Director (B&S), RDSO Lucknow
- Sri R K Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home, North Block, New Delhi
- Sri H S Kushwaha, Head, Reactor Safety Division, BARC, Mumbai
- Dr. Sudhir K. Jain, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur
- Dean, Resource Planning and Generation, IIT Kanpur
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