

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the National Advisory Committee of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering held at IIT Kanpur on November 9, 2001

1. The meeting was attended by:

- Professor Mahesh Tandon, Managing Director, TCPL, N Delhi Chairman
Professor S. G. Dhande, Director, IITK
Professor D. Kunzru, Officiating Dean, Research and Development IIT K (and Dean, Resource Planning and Generation, IITK)
Professor R. N. Iyengar, Department of Civil Engineering, IISc Bangalore
Professor Ravi Sinha, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Bombay
Professor D K Paul, Head, Department of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee
Sri J C Sethi, Chief Engineer, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Chandigarh
Sri H S Kushwaha, Head, Reactor Safety Division, BARC Bombay
Sri S G Das, Joint Director, RDSO (on behalf of Director B&S)
Professor Sudhir K. Jain, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur Convener
Dr. Bhooshan Lal, Librarian, PK Kelkar Library, IIT Kanpur (Permanent Invitee)
Professor C V R Murty, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitees)
Professor Durgesh C Rai, IIT Roorkee (Special Invitees)
Regrets from representatives of HUDCO and Min. of Agriculture.

2. Prof. Jain welcomed the members to the first meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC). He recalled that the NAC was constituted quite sometime back with Late Professor N C Nigam as the Chairman and that due to his ill health at that time, the meeting could not be held.

3. Prof. Dhande recalled the role played by Late Professor N C Nigam in establishment of NICEE and dedicated the first meeting to his memory. He emphasized that information is critical to earthquake safety and that NICEE has a very important role in that direction. He pointed out that in the chain of information, awareness, education and implementation - information is the first step. He remarked that considering needs of the country, different institutions should work in a collaborative mode rather than competitive mode in the area of earthquake engineering.

4. Prof. Tandon pointed out the wide gap in the understanding of earthquake engineering by the Indian professionals and the need to find short cuts to bridge this gap very urgently. State-of-the-art knowledge in this subject is available only with a handful of persons in India and this needs to be disseminated to the professionals. The other side of the spectrum is educating the public on earthquake safety.

Considering the huge task ahead, it is important to prioritize the agenda of NICEE. Prof. Tandon felt that NICEE should focus on the professionals rather than the public awareness efforts.

5. Prof Jain made a presentation on the concept of NICEE - its current activities, financial position, and possible future activities.

6. Dr. Murty presented details of the NICEE web site (www.nicee.org), which was launched on 29 January 2001 in the aftermath of the 2001 Bhuj earthquake.

7. Prof. Iyengar suggested that NICEE should explore the possibility of providing on-line access to important journals in the subject. The idea was endorsed subject to fulfilling legal, financial, and other related aspects. He agreed to explore the possibilities with the help of IISc library.

8. NAC expressed appreciation of the work being done by NICEE considering its limited financial and manpower resources.

9. It was agreed that NICEE should concern itself with earthquake engineering in the broadest possible terms and should not remain limited to structural earthquake engineering. NICEE should also explore the possibilities of disseminating Indian strong motion data, and Indian earthquake catalogs. Prof. Iyengar agreed to help with the seismological data base (for instance, catalog of Indian earthquakes) that could go on NICEE web site. Mr. Kushwaha agreed to help with locating publications related to seismic safety of mechanical systems, and with DOE publications.

10. As a policy, it was decided that NICEE should focus on hard core earthquake engineering rather than the popular issues of earthquake safety on which many other organisations too have started working in recent years.

11. NAC encouraged the translation of the IAEE manual into Hindi (and other Indian languages) and endorsed its publication from NICEE funds.

12. NAC endorsed the idea of hosting an e-conference on Indian Seismic Codes to coincide with the first anniversary of the Bhuj earthquake of 2001.

13. The funds position of NICEE was reviewed and a general satisfaction was expressed with efforts towards fund raising. NAC agreed that:

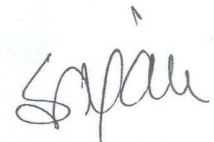
- (a) As of now, no membership fees should be charged to users,
- (b) NICEE should continue to provide materials at no charge to the users unless the material to be provided is considerable,

- (c) As the number of users for NICEE facilities increase at a later stage, the no-charge policy could be reviewed, and
- (d) NICEE should use its own discretion for loaning of books and other publications, since it is too early to lay down a policy on this.

14. Other ideas on which there was consensus:

- (a) NICEE web site could have a SEARCH window.
- (b) NICEE could explore possibility of disseminating softwares from NISEE Berkeley with their permissions.
- (c) NICEE web site could provide information on publications available with it so that the users could approach it for the same.
- (d) NICEE web site could have a section listing the Masters and Doctor theses in the country on related topics with titles and abstracts.
- (e) Need was expressed on developing a strong email listing of interested persons. Mr. Sethi agreed to help obtain email listings of BSNL engineers, while Mr. Kushwaha agreed to do so for the nuclear industry. Prof. Jain was asked to explore developing email listings of civil engineers working in Indian Railway, CPWD and MES.
- (f) Efforts should be made to link the NICEE web site to maximum possible web sites in related topics.
- (g) All members of the NAC agreed to pass on information from time to time on availability of new publications etc to be obtained by NICEE.
- (h) As NICEE gains strength, a section could be developed on its web site on Frequently Asked Questions.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Prof. Tandon for chairing the meeting.



Sudhir K Jain

Convener, National Advisory Committee
National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering