

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) held at IIT Kanpur on October 5, 2002**

1. The meeting was attended by:

Professor Mahesh Tandon, MD, Tandon Consultants Pvt. Ltd., N Delhi **Chairman**  
Professor Deepak Kunzru, Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur  
Professor Ravi Sinha, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Bombay  
Professor D.K. Paul, Head, Department of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee  
Shri J.C. Sethi, Chief Engineer, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Chandigarh  
Shri H.S. Kushwaha, Head, Reactor Safety Division, BARC Trombay, Mumbai  
Professor Sudhir K. Jain, Dept of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur **Convener**  
Professor Prem Kalra, Dean, Resource Planning and Generation, IIT Kanpur  
Dr. Bhooshan Lal, Librarian, PK Kelkar Library, IIT Kanpur (Permanent Invitee)  
Professor C.V.R. Murty, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitees)  
Professor Durgesh C. Rai, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitees)  
Professor Vinay K. Gupta, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitees)  
Professor Javed N. Mallik, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitees)  
Dr. K.K. Bajpai, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur (Special Invitees)  
*Regrets from representatives of HUDCO, Ministry of Agriculture, Railway Board and Professor R.N. Iyengar, Department of Civil Engineering, I.I.Sc. Bangalore*

2. Prof. Jain welcomed the members to the second meeting of the NAC. He recalled the minutes of first NAC and tabled the agenda items. The copies of the reports of various activities of NICEE during last one year along with statement of account were distributed among the committee members.
3. Prof. Tandon appreciated the various initiatives taken by NICEE towards dissemination of information. He recalled the important issues taken up in last meeting and started the agenda items.
4. Prof. Jain made a presentation on NICEE activities and discussed various issues including statement of accounts and operation of NICEE funds. He mentioned the overwhelming response to the two e-conferences and the review workshop for Masters students last year.
5. Prof. Murty presented the update on NICEE web site ([www.nicee.org](http://www.nicee.org)). He informed that following features have been added to NICEE web site based on the suggestions made during the first NAC meeting:
- Search Engine Option

- ii. PG Theses information
- iii. Proceedings of e-conferences
- iv. Internet Links (to web sites of national and international organizations like GSI, IMD, BERI, MCEER, etc. and strong motion data web sites e.g. NSMP, NGDC etc.)
- v. EQE Software (Free downloads from NISEE)
- vi. List of International and National Conferences
- vii. News items like scholarships, professional opportunities etc.
- viii. Earthquake Tips

6. Prof. Kalra made following suggestions:

- Live Chat show on NICEE web site at a fixed time with leading authorities in earthquake engineering
- Photo gallery for Indian earthquakes
- Software competition for students

Professor Kalra pointed out that some funding agencies provide funds for popularizing science and could be approached by NICEE. He also suggested that NICEE web site should strive to be *different* from other sites and should avoid things that are being done by others.

7. Shri Sethi pointed out the urgent need for explanatory handbook on Indian earthquake codes, for instance the newly released IS:1893-2002 (Part I), and wondered if NICEE can take some initiative in this direction. Professor Jain pointed out that the explanatory handbook is a very considerable amount of work and at this stage NICEE may not be able to take up such an ambitious project.

8. Prof. Tandon pointed out that the professionals are now looking for small worksheets for structural calculations rather than the large computer programmes. He wondered if NICEE can provide a forum to the professionals to exchange such spreadsheets. Mr. Sethi however cautioned that only well-tested spreadsheets should be provided on NICEE web site.

9. Professor D K Paul mentioned that the Department of Earthquake Engineering at IIT Roorkee has an excellent library and that its catalog could be put on NICEE web site so that the professionals could access such publications from Roorkee. The idea received overall support and Professor Paul was requested to arrange to provide the catalog in suitable electronic format.

10. Dr. Bhooshan Lal suggested that NICEE could develop and list standard key words in Earthquake Engineering. The idea received overall support and Dr. Lal volunteered to take up this work.

11. Dr. Bajpai pointed out that many college students do not know about NICEE and its web site and that efforts are needed to reach out to the colleges by NICEE.

12. Dr. Malik suggested that NICEE develop a regular electronic newsletter and volunteered to take up the responsibility for the same.

13. Prof. Vinay Gupta suggested that NICEE web site should list the journals available at IITK/ NICEE and also provide links to the sites of these journals wherever appropriate.



14. NAC expressed its sincere gratitude to Prof. George Housner for gift of his personal collection of Earthquake Engineering books and other publications to NICEE. It was agreed that through an email, all subscribers to NICEE be informed of this donation from Prof. Housner.
15. It was suggested that NICEE and DEQ Roorkee may periodically share the list (and other details) of books/publications acquired by both organisations. This may help both the organisations to strengthen their own collections.
16. Prof. Sinha suggested that NICEE web site should not just provide the list of BIS codes in Earthquake Engineering, but also include a brief description of these. The idea was agreed and Professor Sinha agreed to provide such a write up.
17. NAC reviewed the status of Hindi and Telugu translations of the IAEE Manual on Non-Engineered Constructions and reiterated its endorsement of publication of the same from NICEE funds. NAC was also briefed of the special supplement of the journal *Earthquake Spectra* on the Bhuj earthquake and the 200 copies being obtained by NICEE for free dissemination in the country.
18. Concern was expressed that the Indian seismic codes are taking too long to be revised and that this is causing serious difficulties to the professionals. For instance, IS:1893 was last published in 1984 and this year only part I of this code has been published by BIS. It is not clear how much more time it will take for BIS to bring out revisions of the other parts of this code. It was felt that the professional engineer wanting to design say a water tank will have serious difficulty in view of the prevailing situation. It was resolved that NICEE may undertake to develop code-like guidelines for the following two topics by constituting suitable committees:

- Seismic Design of Elevated and Ground Supported Liquid Retaining Tanks
- Seismic Design and Detailing of RC Structures (essentially, a revision of IS:13920-1993)

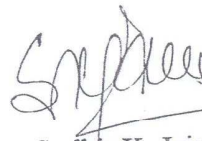
It was felt that such guidelines will serve very useful purposes: (a) in the interim period till the codes are revised, the professionals could use these for design, and (b) these will constitute the resource material for the revision of the code and could in fact help expedite revision of the codes. Depending on the experience on these two guidelines, more such projects may be taken up by NICEE.

19. The Committee encouraged NICEE to continue with the M.Tech students workshop and similar such initiatives. Further, it was decided that the students who attended the M.Tech workshop this year be asked to submit their thesis. The best thesis (to be selected through a Committee) be given the following award:
  - The student be given a certificate, a cash award of Rs 5,000/-, and be invited to attend the next year's Workshop and his travel expenses by air be reimbursed, and
  - Thesis Supervisor of the student be provided a professional incentive to the extent of Rs 10,000/-. This could be in the form of books grant, participation in conferences, etc.

It was decided that if none of the theses are found worthy of the award, no such award be declared.

20. NAC suggested that NICEE attempt to maintain on its web site a directory of personnel in India in Earthquake Engineering.
21. The fund position of NICEE was reviewed and it was felt that NICEE has had considerable achievements with a relatively small budget. Professor Kalra suggested that NICEE should approach Power Ministry, Petroleum Ministry, Army Research Board, etc for funds. He also agreed to include a write up on NICEE in the DRPG Newsletter and issue an appeal for funds for NICEE.

The meeting ended with remark of "keep up the good work" for NICEE 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