

Minutes of Meeting

Sectoral Steering Committee on Disaster Management

Meeting was held on zoom platform on 16 October 2020.

PRESENT:

1. Dr. Chandan Ghosh	-	Chairman
2. Dr. P R Swarup	-	Director General (CIDC)
3. Dr. Girish Joshi	-	Member
4. Mr. Amandeep Garg	-	Member
5. Mr. Anshuman Shukla	-	Member
6. Mr. Rajendra Desai	-	Member
7. Dr. Hari Kumar	-	Member
8. Dr. Shuchita Kumar	-	Convener

Dr. Chandan Ghosh chaired the meeting and welcomed the other members.

All the members introduced themselves. Then **Dr. P.R. Swarup** DG CIDC shared the idea behind the International Construction week 2020. He mentioned that COVID had created a different situation neither good nor bad. Therefore in the field of Disaster Management, there are new dimensions have emerged. Besides the natural disasters, new manmade ones also needed consideration. There were a number of challenges needing to be looked at and to take these thoughts to the fraternity during the International Construction Week 2020.

He emphasised that CIDC was trying to assemble all streams of Construction under one roof. Assessment of natural disasters, to enable mitigation, before they happened was very important. He thanked Dr. Ghosh for accepting the chairmanship of the group. He advised all members to reach out people and share information about the conference who like to join in different capacities.

Dr. Chandan Ghosh thanked Dr. Swarup for the wonderful initiative and mentioned the important responsibility the committee had to the society regarding Disaster mitigation. He appreciated the members who had spared their time to join in the discussions.

Dr. Ghosh stated that a full day program was to be made for 1st December and invited members to give their view on different aspects of disaster mitigation of which they were experts. He mentioned that 3 sessions would be held in the seminars and asked the members to suggest topics on Disaster Resistance post COVID. He also suggested discussing mass scale migration of construction workers.

Dr. Girish Joshi mentioned that they had done much work post cloud burst and other related natural disasters.. Regarding the Pandemic scenario he suggested that he focus be on:

- i. Pre-fabricated Hospital Buildings and alternative construction techniques especially light structures to tackle earth quake & flooding.
- ii. Skilling of manpower to be able to be able to understand and construct using new techniques
- iii. To prepare the road map for action including policy reforms

He suggested inviting expert from IIT's and other institutes including-

- i. Prof. Yogendra Singh – IIT Roorkee

- ii. Dr. Pankaj Aggarwal – IIT Roorkee
- iii. Prof. Ratnesh Kumar - NIT Nagpur.
- iv. Dr. Hement Vinayak – NITTR Nagpur
- v. Dr. Ravi Sinha – IIT Bombay
- vi. Dr. CVR Murthy – IIT Madras

Additional Names

- vii. Mr. Yogesh Barot - PRISM, Ahemadabad
- viii. Mr. Nitin Kumar Verma – Noida
- ix. Mr. Gopal Rai – Bombay
- x. Dr. S. K. Deb – IIT Guwahati
- xi. Prof. Amit Kumar Bose – DDF Delhi
- xii. Mr. Ratish Jain- Resistoflex – Noida
- xiii. Many Officials from NDMC, DDA, MCD

Dr. Swarup mentioned the International Construction Week 2020 had many sectoral committees of which he suggested the members to check on CIDC website like pre-engineered and pre - fabricated structures & Insurance etc. He also suggested that workers needed to be skilled as CPWD had made 40% certified worker mandatory.

Dr. Rajendra Desai mentioned that he was mainly working with construction workers in rural areas. According to him, skill upgradation had a huge potential. Since retro-fitting activity had grown in a big way, trained person were needed. Mr. Desai also said that there was a need to upgrade vernacular buildings and show-case them. just now he shared a brief note by email.

Dr. Swarup responded by informing all that CIDC was conducting workers training pan- India and further up-gradation was available by B. Voc which CIDC was conducting in association with a number of Universities.

He also suggested members to check with their contractors to see their workers were being trained and certified.

Dr. Hari Kumar suggested finalizing the broad topics which should include:

- i. New Construction
- ii. Existing Construction & Buildings
- iii. Disaster resident infrastructures
- iv. Capacity Building
- v. Building regulations
- vi. Urban local bodies to be aware and follow these regulations
- vii. Focus on existing lifeline buildings including retro-fitting of Hospitals and Schools.

Dr. Ghosh thanked and mentioned we could include some videos to emphases in the focus of areas to be worked upon and invited all present to share their knowledge. He has mentioned about the poor quality of constructions still persistent in the neighbourhood, where proper accountability as well as awareness campaign to follow up with the community and govt. local bodies. Some showcase example may be presented.

New alternative and lightweight constructions may be shown.

Builders vs Buyers – check points. Whether buildings are earthquake resistant as proclaimed in the advertisement..

Mr. Amandeep said that new technologies needed to discussed & improved upon. As even when the technologies were available, few knew how to execute with the right details.

A session should be to assess review and upgrade the life and resilience of buildings. Dr. Ghosh mentioned Mr. Nitin Verma and Mr. Gopal Rai have been doing challenging retrofitting jobs.

Mr. Anshuman mentioned that the private builders were more focussed on the economics than to include safety features. Therefore, economical risk reduction techniques were needed to be developed for them to adopt the same. The topic could be “Economical risk reduction techniques to create awareness”.

There are a number of techniques available but there needs to be a mindset change for people to adopt them. Knowledge sharing centres could be created to make the general public aware of the techniques available.

Dr. Ghosh appreciated the suggestion and said that the International Construction Week platform could be used to create the needed material.

Dr. Swarup appreciated the need for creating literature for common house owners, for which CIDC had also done some work, which culminated in a book called “Building Blocks”.

He suggested that an online platform for interaction with experts and exchange of ideas. He thanked all the members for their time and ideas.