

Need of hour to establish Seismological Research Centre in Guwahati

Guwahati, Jan 24: Environmental Watch and Management Institute organized a National Seminar cum Exhibition on "Earthquake Hazards: Effects, Mitigation and Management" at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Betkuchi, Guwahati-35 on 20-21 January, 2017, sponsored by Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. Ms. Parismita Rajbangshi delivered the welcome address. The beautiful traditional Bihu dance performed by Ms. Tapati Parashar, Student, Department of Civil Engineering, RSET, Guwahati. Debajit Roy, Hirakjyoti Kalita, Jit Kalita, Jon Baishya performed a drama related to Earthquake. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr. Chandan Mahanta, Dean of Students' Affairs, IIT Guwahati, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT, Guwahati. He also delivered Inaugural Speech on "Disaster risk evaluation and Management need in North East India". He praised Environmental Watch and Management Institute for conducting exceptional academic works. Dr. Pallabee Choudhury, Institute of Seismological Research, Gujarat presented her paper on "Seismic Hazard assessment: A Tool for Earthquake Mitigation Strategies". She told that occurrence of earthquakes is a natural phenomenon which cannot be stopped or prevented so we need to learn to live along with it and some techniques should be developed by which the loss of human lives and property can be reduced as much as possible. She suggested that site specific studies are very important because it help us in pre-disaster mitigation planning, designing earthquake resistant structures and land use planning. A total of 120 participants including teachers, students, engineers, professors, research scholars and policy makers from Institute of Seismological Research, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Gauhati University, Tezpur University, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Royal School of Engineering & Technology, Guwahati, Assam Engineering College, Guwahati, Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat, Dimoria College, Bajali College, Aryabhatta Junior Science College, Guwahati, Assam State Disaster Management Authority, Guwahati, Cotton College State University, Guwahati,

CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat were present there. National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, Assam State Disaster Management Authority, Environmental Watch and Management Institute took part in the exhibition.

The first technical session of the seminar was started with Dr. Sarbeswar Kalita, Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, as chairperson. In this session the first speech was delivered by Dr. Binu Sharma, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Engineering College, Guwahati on "Soil Liquefaction: Effects and its mitigation". This was followed by a speech on "Ways to enhance capability to face disasters" by Dr. Pradip Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Cotton College, Guwahati. The next paper was presented by Bijit Kumar Choudhury, Scientist, Geo Sciences and Technology Division, CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, entitled "Understanding the attenuation of seismic waves in the Indo-Burman Ranges from the perspectives of regional seismic Lg phase". The last paper of the first session "A case study of traditional houses in NE India as Earthquake resistant structure" was presented by Farheena Firdousi Islam, Assistant Professor, Nitisha Mazumdar, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, RSET, Guwahati.

The second technical session held on second day of the seminar, was started with Dr. Pradip Kumar Das, Professor, Department of Geology, Cotton College State University, Guwahati as chairperson. B Sinha, Meteorologist, India Meteorological Department, Shillong described the *Earthquake monitoring in Northeast India*. The next paper was presented by Archana Das, Institute of Seismological Research, Raisan, Gandhinagar, Gujarat entitled "Relative assessment of tectonic activity along the Katrol hill fault, Kachchh, Western India". The paper entitled "Influence of site effect in microearthquake spectra of two neighboring stations of Tezpur region" by Nilutpal Bora, Geophysical Lab, Department of Physics, Tezpur University. The next paper on "Shear Wave Velocity Struc-

ture (VS30) through Multichannel Analysis of Surface Waves and Subsequent Estimation of Peak Ground Acceleration for Seismic Hazard Assessment of Shillong City, Meghalaya" by Goutam Kashyap Boruah, CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat. Chayanika Das, PG Student, Department of Civil Engineering Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat presented a paper entitled "Indigenous housing typology of North East India and its seismic resilience". Another paper "Seismic Status of the Shillong Plateau" was presented by Dr. Devesh Walia, Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Studies, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong. A speech was delivered on "Need for crustal deformation in India" by Dr. Pallabee Choudhury. Rajesh Dutta, Assam State Disaster Management Authority Dispur, Guwahati delivered a speech on "Earthquake risk mitigation". An audiovisual presentation was shown on "Awareness and Preparedness for Earthquake" by JN Khataniar, Consultant Engineer, Guwahati. The last paper was presented by Dr. Arnab Sarma, Professor and Head Department of Civil Engineering, Royal School of Engineering & Technology on "Reservoir-Triggered Seismicity".

Dr. K.G. Bhattacharyya, Former Professor, Department of chemistry, Gauhati University was the chairperson of brainstorming and valedictory session. Dr. Hari Prasad Sarma, Rector, Gauhati University was the guest of honour and took part in the open house discussion. They pleasantly explained all the questions raised by the participants in open house discussion. Dr. Chandana Sarma, Organizing Secretary, organizing committee distributed certificates to all the participants. As a decision of this seminar Dr. Dilip Kumar Deka, Secretary, Environmental Watch and Management Institute and Dr. Bhupendra Talukdar, Chairman, organizing committee declared that the seminar was quite successful where eminent scientist, engineers, policy maker gather at the same platform and exchange ideas and discuss remedies for earthquake mitigation for greater interest of society.