

Experts deliberate on seismic design of dams

IIT-K Short Course Sees Encouraging Participation

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Kanpur: The four-day short course on seismic design of concrete gravity dams, organised by the National Information Center for Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) at IIT-Kanpur, concluded on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest of the valedictory session IIT-director Sanjay G Dhande, recalled his personal experience of earthquake shaking induced by the Koyna dam in Maharashtra in 1967. "This is the same earthquake that caused damage to the Koyna dam that became a watershed event in the developments for seismic engineering of dams the world over", added Dhande.

He also recalled the enormous loss that took place in the city of Pune, which was caused by the breaching of a nearby reservoir. Taking cue from both the mishaps, he stressed upon the importance of

ensuring safety of dams, and industry-academia interactions and the consequent sharing of knowledge for this purpose.

Sudhir K Jain, coordinator, NICEE, aptly summed up the success of the course based on the views of the world renowned experts and appreciated the strong participation. The challenging questions posed to the experts by the participants showed the great level of interest that the course has generated amongst the professional engineers attending the course.

The short course was conducted by two world renowned experts in the field of seismic design of concrete gravity dams, Anil K Chopra of the University of California at Berkeley and Larry Nuss of US, bureau of reclamation, Denver, US.

The course was attended by about 150 participants with almost equal numbers from industry and academia. In the course, the par-

ticipants were exposed to the state-of-the-art technologies in seismic analysis of concrete gravity dams. The improvement in the field of earthquake-resistant design of dams in the USA was also highlighted with case studies of seismic performance of important dams. The lucid presentations by the experts followed by intense question-answer sessions gave an overall understanding of the issues involved in the planning, design and construction of earthquake-resistant gravity dams.

A brainstorming-session conducted by Jain involved deliberations on the proposed roadmap for improving the Indian state-of-practice in the concerned field with active participation from academia and industry.

All the participants pledged to carry forward the lessons learnt from the course and successful implementation of the same.

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