

Declaration of the Conference

“Safe Infrastructures for Resilient Communities in Nepal”


Kathmandu, Nepal, October 23 & 24, 2016

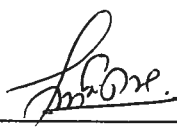
The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, the National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET) and the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition - Nepal (ISET-N) organized the conference “Safe Infrastructures for Resilient Communities in Nepal” to present the findings of an 18-month long project conducted to gather the data on and quantify the resilience of civil infrastructure systems in Kathmandu during and after the 2015 Gorkha earthquake event. Resilience is the time-varying ability of a system to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and/or recover from potentially disruptive events that may occur over its lifetime, either back to its original state or an adjusted state based on new requirements. Civil infrastructure systems are the backbones of modern societies and their resilience is key for safe communities.

The focus was on the electrical power supply, water distribution and telecommunication infrastructure systems as well as on residential building inventory. We used the newly developed Re-CoDeS framework to model the evolution of the supply and demand in these civil infrastructure systems over a period about one year after the 2015 earthquake.

The Conference assembled professionals, scientists and experts from different domains, covering a large expertise in the functioning of multiple civil infrastructure systems. Respected Mr. Sushil Gyawali, Chief Executive Officer of the Nepal Reconstruction Authority opened the Conference. Based on presentations of the project findings, the presentations of NSET and ISET-N partners, and international guest speakers, Dr. Misra and Dr. Brzev, we initiated a lively discussion among the earthquake safety practitioners in Nepal during the interactive workshop sessions, collected experiences on vulnerability and recovery of civil infrastructure systems and housing, and reached a commonly agreed set of conclusions on how to increase the resilience of civil infrastructure in Nepal. The current efforts on disaster relief, recovery, planning and preparing for future events must be continued in a coordinated manner so that the civil infrastructure systems of Kathmandu and Nepal will be more resilient in future earthquakes.

Kathmandu, October 24, 2016


Prof. Dr. Božidar Stojadinović, ETH Zurich


Dr. Ramesh Guragain, NSET


Mr. Max Didier, ETH Zurich


Mr. Jayendra Rimal, ISET-N


Prof. Dr. Siddhartha Ghosh, IIT Bombay