

PRESS NOTE

WORKSHOP: “Sharing Status Survey Report of School Buildings in Guwahati City and Retrofitting Solutions”

Every Year Seismic observatories record about two hundred earthquakes of varying intensities with epicentres in or around North eastern region which falls in the most vulnerable seismic zone V. The scenarios developed for M 8+ earthquakes in current contexts of Assam, projects massive loss to life and property and immense damage to infrastructure and environment. In the past earthquakes that occurred across countries, the school building itself was responsible for large casualties and injuries. Past experience shows that school buildings have been the cause of many deaths and injuries during earthquake all over the world. Schools house the most vulnerable section of the society-the children for a major part of the day. Therefore, it has been felt essential to undertake a status survey of hospitals and schools in the state with reference to their safety against multi hazards storms, earthquakes and floods. The Civil engineering Department of Assam Engineering College, Gauhati undertook the study for all schools and hospitals of Guwahati city on behalf of ASDMA. This was a huge exercise that included all government and private schools and hospitals of Guwahati City to help the concerned authorities to check the safety status of those buildings and take actions accordingly.

In order to share the **Status Survey Report of School Buildings in Guwahati City along with its retrofitting Solutions, among the schools authorities, a workshop was conducted by Assam State Disaster Management Authority on 8th August 2014 at NEDFi House, Guwahati.** The report stated that out of the total 770 schools surveyed, 5% schools are vulnerable to flood, 10% of the schools are vulnerable to slope failure/Landslide, 34% of the schools has major structural vulnerability and 54% of schools had minor structural vulnerability and 74% of the schools had non- structural vulnerability.

Shri Jitesh Khosla, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam inaugurated the workshop. Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Chief Executive Officer, ASDMA was also present on the occasion. Presentation on Major Structural & Non-structural Vulnerability of Schools was given by Dr Jayanta Pathak & Dr P J Hazarika, Civil Engineering Department, AEC, Guwahati. **Over 170 Government and Private Schools** participated in the workshop and were introduced to the vulnerabilities of their school buildings.

In the technical session later in the day, Dr Mrinal Kr Borah, Civil Engineering Department, AEC, spoke on Flood Vulnerability of Schools in Guwahati City and Dr Diganta Goswami, Civil Engineering Department, AEC gave presentation on Landslide Vulnerability of Schools in Guwahati City by, Guwahati. Also, a detailed Presentation on Major Structural & Non-structural Vulnerability of Schools was given by Dr Jayanta Pathak & Dr P J Hazarika, Civil Engineering Department, AEC, Guwahati. This was followed by discussion on the road-ahead with the stakeholders to make the school disaster resilient.