

PRESS NOTE

WORKSHOP: “Sharing Status Survey Report of Hospital 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 hospitals and health care facilities are another important infrastructure, which are critical for post-earthquake disaster management and recovery. The hospital buildings remain occupied round the clock by a high percentage of immobile and vulnerable occupants. Moreover, the hospital buildings contain highly sensitive and expensive installations and medical equipment and many of them are critical to life saving situation. Damage to these sensitive installations leads to high direct economic losses and paralyze the capacity to handle disaster. Unsafe Hospital buildings not only expose the Health care Organisation to death and injury of patients, doctors, nurses etc. but also disrupt the delivery of patients care services including the capability to provide emergency services in a disaster. Therefore, it has been felt essential to undertake a status survey of hospitals 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 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 Hospitals Buildings in Guwahati City along with its retrofitting Solutions, among the hospital authorities, a workshop was conducted by Assam State Disaster Management Authority on 12th August 2014 at NRHM Conference Hall, Guwahati.**

The report is based on the observations from 54 Hospitals (Both Government & Private) in Guwahati City. The general findings of the report stated that majority of the Private Hospital suffer from lack of Open Space and more than 50 % of the hospitals have less than 20 % open space. Another major concern in all the hospitals is the unsecured OXYGEN cylinders, which are likely to topple in the event of shaking due to earthquake, causing disruption of critical life saving facility. Almost all the hospitals are not securing the medicine and glass bottles in the almirah and open selves which need attention, for uninterrupted supply of medicine during post disaster situation.

Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Chief Executive Officer, ASDMA and other officials of the line departments were present on the occasion. **Over 40 Government and Private Hospitals** participated in the workshop and were introduced to the vulnerabilities of their hospital buildings.

In the technical session later in the day, Dr Jayanta Pathak gave a presentation on the Final Report on Status Survey of Hospital Buildings in Guwahati City. This was followed by discussion on the road-ahead with the stakeholders to make the hospital disaster resilient.