



Daily News & Analysis

Saturday, October 23, 2010
DNA AHMEDABAD Page 7

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'Clear policy will help better retrofitting'

DNA Correspondent

IIT-Gandhinagar, Chandkheda, organised a national conference on seismic retrofitting policy today. The purpose of the conference was to come up with guidelines which will eventually help government to formulate a policy regarding retrofitting in India. Dignitaries from all over India participated in the conference.

'Seismic retrofitting' means the reinforcement measures undertaken to make the building more resistant to earthquakes. It's important to have a clear policy regarding retrofitting in India, especially after some major earthquakes which took thousands of lives during the last two decades. Prof Sudhir K Jain, director, IIT-Gandhinagar, urged all the invited members to understand the difference between seismic safety policy and seismic retrofitting policy, and requested the members to come up with their findings, so that a clear policy guideline can be made.

Dr. Amit Prashant from IIT-Kanpur believes that awareness and education are better tools than policies and law regarding retrofitting. He wanted to make people aware about this technology to protect building structures from earthquakes. Dr. Rajendra Desai, who runs an NGO in Delhi, shared his experiences of Kutch, Kashmir and Latur earthquakes. He believes that engineers can play a key role as advisors to the policy makers. Rahul Thakkar, an engineer from Ahmedabad, wanted to include local know-how and methods in retrofitting buildings.

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