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Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the Forum for Promotion of Soil Dynamics in India

Shamsher Prakash

Missouri University of Science and Technology, prakash@mst.edu

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Minutes of the 5th Soil Dynamics Forum Meeting

Soil Dynamics Forum was convened at the Committee Room of James Thomason Building, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India on 20th December, 2017. A total of 18 members have attended the meeting, while 18 other members have expressed their unavailability. List of the attendees of the meeting has been enclosed at the end.

Prof. Ajit Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee chaired the meeting and formally welcomed the members present. Prof. Chaturvedi has appreciated the initiation taken by Prof. Shamsheer Prakash in promoting Soil Dynamics activities in India. Prof. Chaturvedi extended his full support for all the future activities of the forum. Prof. Shamsheer Prakash, Working Chairman and Dr. Ravi Jakka, Secretary informed the members about the progress on various activities taken by the Forum. Members deliberated on various agenda items of the meeting.

Following are the minutes of the Soil Dynamics Forum meeting:

1. Minutes of the 4th Soil Dynamics Forum meeting have been confirmed.
2. Prof. Ajit Chaturvedi apprised the members about the current status on hiring of the SP Chair Professor. To invite good number of applications from the eligible candidates, Director, IIT Roorkee has agreed to allow appointment of eligible persons from abroad on 3 to 5 year basis. Applicant need not to be an Indian citizen.
3. Preparations on organizing 7th International Conference on Soil Dynamics have been discussed. Prof. Sitharam has informed through an email to Dr. Ravi Jakka that it would be organized in year 2020 at IISc, Bangalore. He has also told that all other details will be worked out very soon in consultation with Prof. S. Prakash and Dr. Ravi Jakka.
4. Status on organizing short term course on Soil Dynamics has been discussed. Dr. Priyanka Ghosh has informed through an email that he will organize the short term course in the 2nd half of year 2018 at IIT Kanpur. Currently, he is on sabbatical leave to Japan. Once he returns back in June, 2018, he will start all the necessary preparations.
5. Status on organizing 2nd National Workshop/Conference on Liquefaction has been updated by Dr. Ravi Jakka. He has informed the members that this

workshop/conference would be organized in last week of October or 1st week of November, 2019.

6. Updates on organizing International workshop on Dynamic Soil Structure Interaction have been presented to the members based on email communication received from Prof. Deepankar Choudhury. This international workshop would be held in association with TC 207 of International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). It is planned as a preconference event before Indian Geotechnical Conference - 2018. Preparations are underway in this direction.
7. Deliberations are made on managing finances of the forum and the following suggestions are made by the members.
 - a. It is recommended to open a bank account for the forum in a bank on IITR campus
 - b. As forum has no other source of income other than the savings from the events organized, members felt that 1/3 of savings of any event organized may be credited to the forum's account, irrespective of number of organizing bodies.
 - c. The above collection may be used for awarding prizes for Lifetime Achievement, Excellent Thesis as proposed in item no. 13, etc.
 - d. The balance money can partially be used as seed money to initially support the events other than International Conference. However, this seed money is to be collected back from the organizers along with forums 1/3rd share.
 - e. Members agreed to provide peripheral support to the Secretary to run forum's office activities. However, these funds are not be used for travel. No permanent office staff is be recruited at this point of time.
8. It is resolved that the forum be registered as a non-profit society. Probable name of the society would be Forum/Society for Promotion of Soil Dynamics in India (SPSD). Exact name may be modified as per the official requirements by the office bearers, while registering.
9. For the registration, executive committee has to be formed to meet the norms. Hence, to complete the modalities of the registration, members have elected the following members as office bearers.

- i. Prof. V.K. Puri, President
- ii. Prof. Y. Singh, Vice President
- iii. Dr. Ravi Jakka, Secretary
- iv. Prof. Gopal Ranjan, Member
- v. Prof. Swami Saran, Member
- vi. Dr. Daya Shanker, Member
- vii. Dr. S. Ganesh Kumar, Member
- viii. Dr. J.P. Sahoo, Member
- ix. Mr. Rajesh P. Shukla, Member

At present most of the members are elected from Roorkee, just to enable completion of registration formalities. However, the above committee will have only two year term. Next committee would be elected during the forum's meeting after 2years. Further, forum's meetings will be combined with any major activity of the forum or any other similar event for enabling wider participation of the members of the forum in electoral process.

10. Appointment of New Members

- a. As per the suggestions of Prof. Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee 'Director of IIT Roorkee' will be nominated as patron of the forum.
- b. Prof. VK Puri has kindly agreed to take the charge as Chairman/President of the forum from Prof. S. Prakash.
- c. Prof. S. Prakash would be acting as Honorary Chairman/President of the Forum
- d. Prof. Yogendra Singh, Dept. of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee has agreed to take charge of Co-chairman/Vice President of the forum.

11. Appointment of coordinators: The following coordinators are nominated for looking after the activities of the Soil Dynamics Forum in their respective institutions/regions

- a. Prof. ML Sharma from IIT Roorkee (Continuing..)
- b. Dr. Priyanka Ghosh from IIT Kanpur (New Appointment)
- c. Prof. T.G Sitharam from IISc Bangalore (New Appointment)
- d. Prof. Boominathan from IIT Madras (New Appointment)
- e. Prof. Debasis Roy from IIT Kharagpur (New Appointment)
- f. Dr. Murali Krishna from IIT Guwahati (New Appointment)
- g. Dr. R. Ayothiraman from IIT Delhi (New Appointment)

All the above nominated coordinators have already expressed their consent, except from Prof. Boominathan. Future meetings of the forum will be held at different places along with any major activity of the forum with the assistance of the corresponding coordinator. Please note

that more coordinators can be included/added from the other institutes based on their interest and initiation of activities of the forum.

12. Appointment of a Deputy Secretary for the forum:

This has been deferred for the time being. However, some financial support may be provided to the Secretary to run forum's office as discussed under item 7(d).

13. Institution of Excellence Awards:

It is decided to institute the following 3 Awards

- (i) Excellence awards in India for the best PhD Thesis in the area of Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering. The award value will be about Rs. 25,000/-. Initially, one award will be given in four years.
- (ii) Excellence awards in India for the best MTech dissertation in the area of Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering. The award value will be about Rs. 10,000/-. Initially, one award will be given in four years.
- (iii) Life time achievement awards (maximum 3) in the area of Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering. The award value will be about Rs. 50,000/- each along with plaque and shawl. It would be given at the time of international conference only. Awardee is required to make state of art presentation in the conference.

All the above prizes would be distributed to the eligible candidates across the world either during the international conference of the society or any other major event.

Prof. Shamsher Prakash has come forward to support these awards initially through his foundation, if the sufficient funds are not available with the forum. This support will be extended till the other sponsor is found or as long as the foundation can support.

Keeping in view of long term commitment, it is proposed to collect corpus money for these awards from sponsors, after the forums registration.

14. The following procedure has been recommended for the evaluation of PhD/MTech thesis:

- (i) Secretary General solicits nominations from the members. Nomination call will be listed in reputed newsletters/journals such as ISET newsletter, IGS newsletter, etc.
- (ii) A small committee will be appointed for the selection of best thesis

This committee will consist of

- (a) Chairman of the forum or his/her nominee
- (b) President ISET or his/her nominee
- (c) Eminent person from academia/industry/research organization
- (d) Sponsor/Nominee of the sponsor if any

15. Prof. Chaturvedi has suggested to use Skype for wider participation of members of the forum from various parts of the world.

16. The meeting has ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Prof. Ajit Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee, Prof. Shamsheer Prakash, Honorary President, Soil Dynamics Forum, Prof. VK Puri, President, Soil Dynamics Forum and other members who attended the meeting.

- Ravi Jakka
Secretary

List of Members, who attended the Forum Meeting

S.No.	Name	E-mail ID
1.	Prof. Ajit K. Chaturvedi	director@iitr.ac.in
2.	Prof. Shamsheer Prakash	prakash@mst.edu
3.	Prof. V.K. Puri	puri@engr.siu.edu
4.	Prof. Gopal Ranjan	gopalran@yahoo.com
5.	Prof. Swami Saran	swamisaran@gmail.com
6.	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar	kumars@ce.siu.edu
7.	Dr. S. Sarkar	ssarkar@cbri.res.in
8.	Dr. Daya Shanker	dayasfeq@iitr.ac.in
9.	Dr. S. Ganesh Kumar	ganeshkumar@cbri.res.in
10.	Dr. J.P. Sahoo	sahoofce@iitr.ac.in
11.	Mr. Manojit Samanta	manojit@cbri.res.in
12.	Mr. Rajesh P. Shukla	shuklarajesh4687@gmail.com
13.	Mr. Aniket Desai	aniketdesai1990@gmail.com
14.	Mr. A. Kranthikumar	kranthikumar0143@gmail.com
15.	Mr. Ankit Kumar	ankitkumar1498@gmail.com
16.	Mr. Ankush Kumar	ankushkumar1498@gmail.com
17.	Mrs. Sally Prakash	prakash@mst.edu
18.	Dr. Ravi S. Jakka	rsjakka@gmail.com

List of Members, who have intimated their unavailability

S.No.	Name
1.	Prof. Ikuo Towhata
2.	Prof. A.S. Arya
3.	Dr. Naveen James
4.	Prof. Amir M. Kaynia
5.	Prof. R.D. Woods
6.	Prof. Ahmed Elgamal
7.	Prof. Pedro Pinto
8.	Dr. T.N. Gupta
9.	Prof. Yogendra Singh
10.	Prof. M. L. Sharma
11.	Prof. D. K. Paul
12.	Prof. Deepankar Choudhury
13.	Dr. Priyanka Ghosh
14.	Prof. T.G Sitharam
15.	Prof. A. Boominathan
16.	Prof. Debasis Roy
17.	Dr. A. Murali Krishna
18.	Dr. R. Ayothiraman
19.	Prof. Chandan Ghosh