

OBITUARY



PROFESSOR D.K. Paul

1947-2020

Prof. D.K. Paul, an exemplary human being, a very able administrator and an academic stalwart in Earthquake Engineering has left all of us for his eternal abode in the late afternoon on 27th December due to cardiac arrest, leaving his family, friends and admirers in deep shock. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray that God gives enough strength to the family to bear the great loss.

Prof. D.K. Paul obtained his B.Sc. Engg. from the University of Lucknow (1965), B.E. in Civil Engineering (1969) and ME in Earthquake Engineering (1971) from the erstwhile University of Roorkee. After completing his masters, he joined as a faculty member in the Department of Earthquake Engineering, University of Roorkee in 1972. In 1978, he went on to do his Ph.D. from the University of Wales, Swansea, UK, under a Commonwealth Scholarship and received it in 1982. He continued there as post-doctoral researcher until 1986 before returning to the University of Roorkee. He served the University of Roorkee in many capacities such as Professor and Head, Department of Earthquake Engineering, Dean of Faculty Affairs and Deputy Director. He was also the founding Head of the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation & Management and has actively participated in the various activities of the Centre. Prof. Paul's contribution in Postgraduate teaching in Earthquake Engineering and National Capacity Building Programs in Earthquake Engineering Education has helped greatly in Earthquake Disaster Reduction. As a part of awareness programme, he disseminated the basic knowledge on Earthquake Engineering and Earthquake Disaster Mitigation to the masses through simple lectures, guidelines, manuals, booklets, TV films, Symposia/Conference etc. These have made an immense impact on the Disaster Mitigation efforts in the country. After serving for 40 years, he retired as Professor/Deputy Director, IIT Roorkee. He continued to serve IIT Roorkee as an Emeritus Fellow. Prof. Paul was a leading authority in the field of Earthquake Engineering and Earthquake Disaster Mitigation. He was consulted for the assessment of the Seismic Safety of many Special Structures in the country requiring Earthquake Resistant Analysis and Design. He has made significant contributions in Earthquake Resistant Analysis and Design of Special Structures such as concrete gravity dams, earth and rockfill dams, bridges, nuclear power plants, multi-storey buildings etc. resulting in Earthquake Disaster Reduction in the country. He has served as Chairman and Member of several National Task Force, Investigative Teams, National Expert Committees on Disaster Mitigation issues constituted by DST, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India etc. He has also received several research awards and is Fellow of several National Technical Societies. Prof. Paul served as the Chairman of the Earthquake Engineering Sectional Committee, CED 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards. He was a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineers (FNAE); the Indian Institute of Engineers (FIE); and the Indian Society of Earthquake Technology (FISET). He also served as the Vice President (1995-1997 & 1997-1999) and President (2007-2009 & 2009-2011) of the Indian Society of Earthquake Technology (ISET).

Prof. TG Sitharam
President, ISET

Homage to Prof. D.K. Paul

By

Dr. S.K. Thakkar

Prof. D.K. Paul passed away on December 27, 2020 in the late afternoon because of Cardiac arrest. I have lost a very dear friend. I felt very sad on hearing the news and could not digest it as I had seen him in an online meeting only a day before. I send my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray that God gives enough strength to the family to bear the great loss. I had a long association with him in the Department of Earthquake Engineering since 1969 when he joined as a Master's student. He had joined the faculty in the Department of Earthquake Engineering in 1972. He was my younger colleague until my retirement in 2003. He had gone to Swansea, U.K. for doing his Ph.D in 1978 after my return from there in 1977; we had many common areas of research interests in the Finite element method particularly in the research work being done at Swansea. We had conducted several courses together in the Continuing education in Finite Element Methods and other aspects of Earthquake engineering in Roorkee and outside Roorkee. We had together organized a Workshop in Seismic Base Isolation in New Delhi in 1989. We had together organized one of the four yearly National Symposium on Earthquake Engineering at Roorkee. We had together worked on several projects of national importance. He had himself done significant research work in Earthquake Engineering. He remained active all through even after his retirement from IIT Roorkee. He was a recipient of several prestigious national awards. He worked as Head of the Department of Earthquake engineering for two terms and Deputy Director of IIT Roorkee. He was a Fellow of National Academy of Engineering. He had taught a wide range of subjects in Earthquake engineering to Masters's students. He had published large number of research papers in Journal and conferences. He has guided a large number of Ph.D. and Master's students in Earthquake Engineering for their thesis. He was an outstanding structural engineer with deep understanding of Earthquake Engineering. We have lost an eminent Structural Engineer whose void is difficult to fill. May his soul rest in peace.