

Session 3

Panel Discussion: Transitioning the path to resilient infrastructure through performance-based standards

Thursday, 05 May 2022 (1100-1230 hrs IST)

Presented by Global Panel of Experts

Session overview: session will collate initiatives by standard-setting bodies and knowledge institutions for disaster resilience of infrastructure through existing as well as new and innovative solutions. It will emphasize why, without focusing on performance-based standards, and on-ground infrastructure, targets of DRI cannot be achieved.

Session Annotation: Challenges of disasters and climate change attract enormous efforts and investment for the creation of new knowledge, solutions, and materials to build disaster-resilient infrastructure (DRI). There is no straightforward path for adoption of new knowledge. The multiple dimensions of capital investment, technology development, and stakeholder buy-in create challenges for incorporating resilience in infrastructure. Standards and certification systems offer opportunities to address these dimensions as a unified implementable solution for mainstreaming resilience in infrastructure development. Several agencies are involved in the process of standards-setting, and their eventual practical application. Globally, organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Europe's CEN/CENELEC and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) set standards. At national levels, government institutions and departments are involved in developing and promulgating standards and regulations, such as the British Standards Institution (BSI) in the UK, and Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) in India, etc., play a critical role in application of standards. Further, knowledge institutions such as American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), World Roads Association (PIARC), etc., influence creation of new standards using latest research and developments.

CDRI aims to facilitate the design and adoption of resilience standards, for critical infrastructure systems and their assets. In this context, it is imperative to bring these standard-setting bodies and knowledge institutions together for this session on transitioning the path to resilient infrastructure through performance-based standards to explore the key questions: This discussion will enable:

1. Understanding technical coverage gaps and limitations of existing standards and certification systems in promoting disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure (historical climate data, addressing long-term uncertainties)
2. Viability of current systems for Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)
3. New standards and enabling conditions for transitioning to net-zero
4. Role of standard-setting organizations and knowledge institutions for encouraging and expediting resilience into developing standards and subsequently their adoption

Outcome: It will inform participants about the ongoing efforts of standard-setting bodies and knowledge institutions to include resilience in infrastructure standards.
