Expert Session Event Report held on the "Bridges: From Classroom Concepts to Consulting Realities"

Event Details:

Organized by: Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, GTU

Coordinated by: Department of Civil (Structural Engineering)

Program Coordinator: Dr. J. A. Amin, Professor, GSET, GTU

Invitee: Prof. (Dr.) K. M. Gondaliya, Assistant Professor, GSET, GTU

Experts/Speakers: Mr. Kamal Soni, Ahmedabad

Date & Time: May 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Venue: Class room 205, First floor, Block – 5, GSET, GTU, Ahmedabad – 382424.

Register students: 20

Highlights of Event:

The expert session is held on 2 May 2024 at Class Room 205, GSET, GTU, commenced with a warm introduction of the guest speaker, Mr. Kamal Soni. Starting his presentation at 11 AM, Mr. Soni effectively intertwined real-life field experiences with foundational bridge design concepts taught in academic settings. His ability to correlate practical work with theoretical knowledge significantly resonated with the students, highlighting the stark contrasts and challenges faced when applying textbook theories to real-world scenarios. Mr. Soni captivated the audience with his dynamic storytelling approach, making an immediate connection with the students.

During the session, Mr. Soni meticulously explained various components of bridge construction and the critical role of structural engineers. He emphasized the importance of not only designing but also ensuring the feasibility of the proposed solutions in actual site conditions and contractor capabilities. Mr. Soni demonstrated exceptional skill in explaining complex technical aspects, particularly in his explanation of cantilever beam mechanics and the direction-dependent nature of reinforcement in bridge structures. He adeptly simplified these intricate subjects, making them accessible and understandable for all students.

A significant part of his presentation was devoted to the strategic approach to learning engineering concepts. He advised students to begin their studies with local publications to grasp the foundational ideas thoroughly before advancing to national or international engineering publication concepts. This method, he argued, would build a strong base of knowledge and enhance their understanding of more complex theories as they progress in their studies and careers. These insights not only enriched the students' learning experience but also provided them with practical strategies for tackling the challenges of structural engineering with a more informed and methodical approach.

A key focus of the talk was on the procedural aspects of obtaining approvals and how problem-solving skills are crucial for aspiring engineers. Mr. Soni shared valuable insights into the

transition from educational environments to professional consulting, illustrating the practical difficulties and the necessity of adaptive thinking in the field. The event was highly interactive, with Mr. Soni engaging directly with students, answering their queries, and encouraging them to pursue excellence in their future endeavors in structural engineering. The session concluded with Mr. Soni expressing his best wishes for the students' future careers, leaving them inspired and more informed about the realities of the structural engineering field.

Glimpse of Expert Session