International honors for advancing safety

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India recognizes Venkatesh Kodur for significant contributions to fire safety in concrete

MSU University Distinguished Professor Venkatesh Kodur was honored for his work in advancing fire safety in concrete materials and structural systems during two special ceremonies in India in December.

Kodur was felicitated during the “3rd R N Raikar Memorial International Conference & Gettu-Kodur International Symposium on Advances in Science & Technology of Concrete” in Mumbai, India, from Dec. 14-15, 2018. This international conference, hosted by the India chapter of the American Concrete Institute, was specially organized to honor of Ravindra Gettu, dean of the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras (IIT-M), and Kodur for their contributions to the field of concrete technology and structural/fire engineering.

His award states: Honoree Professor Venkatesh Kodur

“For his significant contributions to understanding and enhancing fire performance of concrete materials and structural systems, his steadfast dedication to the training of young minds and his commitment for minimizing the destructive impacts of fire through outstanding research, extensive outreach and effective deployment of advanced knowledge.”

Kodur said he was thankful for the honor.

“I credit my graduate students and post-doctoral scholars for their high-quality contributions in advancing the field of field of concrete technology and structural/fire engineering,” he said.
Kodur then moved to IIT-M and joined a list of “eminent international personalities” invited to present the keynote address at the 2018 CSK Memorial Annual Lecture. This prestigious lecture is organized annually in memory of Professor C.S. Krishnamurthy, known for his outstanding contributions in the field computational mechanics.

“I am highly honored to be selected for delivering this keynote address to present the emerging trends and research needs in the field of structural fire engineering,” he added.

Kodur is chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at MSU and directs MSU’s Center on Structural Fire Engineering and Diagnostics.

His academic contributions have led to the development of fundamental understanding on the fire behavior of material and structural systems, and have resulted in numerous innovative design approaches and cost-effective solutions for enhancing fire-resistance of structural systems. He has published more than 400 peer-reviewed papers in journals and conferences, and has given numerous invited keynote presentations.

He is a fellow of two academies and three institutes. He is an associate editor of the Journal of Structural Engineering, and Journal of Structural Fire Engineering, and chairman of ASCE-29 (Fire) Standards Committee.

He has won many awards including AISC Faculty Fellowship Award, MSU Distinguished Faculty Award, NRCC (Government of Canada) Outstanding Achievement Award, and NATO Award for collaborative research. Kodur was part of the FEMA/ASCE Building Performance Assessment Team that studied the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings as a result of Sept. 11 terrorist incidents.

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