

Meeting Minute

Date: August 17, 2013

Meeting started at 9:06 PM

Attendees:

- Ankur Sharma (IL), Kanhaiya Kayastha (CA), Kulmani Aharcha (MD), Dabit Acharya (TX), Baikuntha Adhikari (AZ), Santosh Dhakal (MD), Ramesh Malla (CT), Jagannath Ghimire (TX), Rajendra Shrestha (from Malaysia) , Yagna Pant (IL), Santosh Dhakal (MD), Upendra Karna (NJ), Binod Tiwari (from Japan)

1. Meeting Call to Order: Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D., President
 - Rajendra Shrestha called the meeting to order at 9:06 pm.
2. Self Introduction of Meeting Attendees: All
 - All attendees briefly introduced themselves.
3. Approval of June 1 BOD Meeting Minutes.
 - Jagannath Ghimire agreed to send the meeting minutes by next weekend.
4. Updates on ASNEng Activities
 - Dr. Shrestha updated on ASNEng annual conference, organized jointly with CAN USA at Santa Clara (CA). BOD members Ramesh Malla, Pradeep Khanal, Samana Ghimire, Rajendra Shrestha, Acyut Shrestha, and Binod Tiwari attended the meeting. ASNEng contributed \$1500 including ConocoPhillips contribution of \$500.
 - Disaster preparedness position paper is almost ready; draft paper has been finalized.
 - ANMA/ NASEA annual conference in Spartunburg, SC – an hour has been allocated for ASNEng for the earthquake disaster preparedness session.
 - Bank signature –Jagannath Ghimire and Samana Ghimire have been added in the signature list; Rajendra Shrestha will be added when he gets back to the US.
5. Progress Report on 2013 Merit Awards
 - Applications package sent out on March 28th; reminder was sent out on June 22nd; application deadline is June 31st; no applications received so far.
 - Jagannath Ghimire added that there were two correspondences from IOE so far. There were earlier responses from KU. Jagannath Ghimire agreed to follow up with the universities.
6. Report on the Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual Conference, June 29, 2013, Santa Clara, California
 - Binod Tiwari reported that the Morning Session started at 9 am. Five papers were presented on engineering and disaster management. The papers presented in the afternoon session were related more to CAN-USA.

- Ramesh Malla added that a total of 19 papers were presented in four sessions during the day-long conference on June 29, 2013. There were 60 attendees. Arlin Bloom, who climbed Mt. Annapurna with an all women team, was the key note speaker at the conference; she was a very inspiring speaker who had been to Nepal many times. A networking dinner was held in the evening. A conference proceeding is being prepared and will be published soon.
- Upendra Karna asked how to increase the participation at the annual conference. Ramesh Mallai suggested that we should organize the conference in coordination with CAN-USA.
- Jagannath Ghimire asked about the financial status report from the conference. Ramesh Malla updated that report was not ready but it would be ready soon from CAN-USA.

7. Report on 2013 Annual General Body Meeting

- Binod Tiwari mentioned that there were five attendees who were inquired how they could join the society. They were suggested to submit their application online.

8. Mailbox in Baltimore

- Jagannath Ghimire updated that the rental date of the mailbox in Baltimore, MD had expired. He also suggested that we would need to find someone to take care of mailbox if we want to renew the mailbox.
- Ramesh Malla suggested that we should continue the same mail box. Upon his suggestion, Santosh Dhakal agreed to take care of mailbox between him and Kul Mani Acharya.

9. Processing time for New Membership Approval

- Rajendra Shrestha raised the issue of membership. He informed that the membership letter was not sent for 13 months for few new members. A member paid membership fee through paypal. Since he didn't hear from ASNEng, he withdrew money back. Sanjay Gajurel suggested few new ideas for membership payment.
- Ramesh Malla suggested that approval letter should be sent through the email. The process is fine, but we need to send the approval on time. However, we need to be careful about approving senior member category.
- Upendra Karna proposed that the general membership can be expedited and the issue can be handled by the secretary.
- Ramesh Malla suggested that one to two more people need to review the application apart from the general secretary.
- Binod Tiwari mentioned that those were occasional cases. He also stated that the coordination among secretary, information secretary and treasurer was taking time and suggested that the coordination needed to be improved. Ramesh Malla suggested that the information secretary should inform the secretary and president to approve the membership.
- Rajendra Shrestha inquired about the officer that receives the email sent to the ASNEng Info address. Jagannath Ghimire responded that anyone from executive committee could check that email address.

10. 2014 Annual Conference Venue

- Ramesh Malla proposed that it would be nice if Chicago takes the lead. Rajendra Shrestha also suggested that Chicago should take the initiative to host next annual meeting. Yagna Pant informed that there will be an internal talk in coordination with Ankur Sharma and will inform the BOD in another meeting. Proposed time – May. The following year's conference has been proposed in Phoenix.

11. Status on the preparation of the position paper on the joint initiative "Earthquake Preparedness and disaster relief in Nepal"

12. Ramesh Malla updated that the 10th draft of the position paper has been reviewed by nine people.

All the comments had been incorporated and sent to Rajendra Shrestha for review. New comments are being incorporated by the group members. Foreword from the three presidents ASNEng, CAN-USA and ANMF, the editorial committee and Nepal Ambassador to the U.S. are also being added to the paper. The paper will be possibly ready in next two months for publication in pdf version.

Kanhaiya Kayastha suggested to print at least 100-200 hard copies. He informed that he was leaving for Nepal for three months in September and could look for the possible publication facility in Nepal and also find out about finances. ASNEng Participation in the upcoming NASEA/ANMA Joint

Convention

- Rajendra Shrestha informed that Bishnu phuyal had requested to find someone to represent ASNEng at the convention and suggested that Prahlad Pant would possibly be there. Ramesh Malla agreed to contact Prakash Malla, Manish Shakya and Prahlad Pant for possible participation at the convention.

13. Local Chapters

- Santosh Dhakal from Maryland informed that they organized a picnic on June 20th. About 80 people attended the event including 20 PEs. They also handed out a few membership forms. Two members renewed their membership and one new membership application was also received. There was a \$200 surplus from the picnic. Donations were also received in the picnic.
- ASNEng DC chapter is also going to Virginia Beach for membership promotion on August 24th. They are expecting 25 new members to be added there. DC chapter is also planning a Talk program in a month. PE hours will continue from next month.

14. Various Committee leaderships:

➤ *Newsletter/Publication Committee: Chair – Rabin Bhattarai, Ph.D.*

- Rabin Bhattarai informed that next issue will be coming soon. He will coordinate with Santosh Dhakal for the DC chapter updates.

➤ *Technical Committee: Chair – Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.*

- Ramesh Malla added that earthquake preparedness position paper is almost ready. The committee will be active in other activities after the position paper is ready.
 - Kanhaiya Kayastha: as soon as position paper is out, three follow up projects will be coming up.
- *Liaison Committee: Chair – Upendra Karna, D. Eng., P.E.*
- Upendra Karna informed that he, with together Biswo Baral, is taking an initiative to start a local chapter.
 - Jagannath Ghimire informed that he would take a lead to form the Houston Chapter.
 - Baikuntha Adhikari informed that they are planning to form the Arizona Chapter soon.
15. Old business
- Nonel.
16. New Business
- Special lecture delivered by Binod Tiwari to NEA Japan chapter. Rajendra Shrestha suggested to send a short report to Rabin Bhattarai.
17. Next Meeting
- Oct 26 Saturday

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Rabin Bhattarai and Binod Tiwari