

ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA Joint Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal

Committee Kick-Off

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Sunday, May 23, 2010 (4:00-6:00 PM EST)

I. Call to order

Dr. Ramesh B. Malla, President of ASNEngr, called to order the teleconference meeting of the members of the three lead professional organizations and leaders of other supporting organizations at 4:00 PM EST on May 23, 2010.

II. Roll call and Self Introduction

A roll call was called by the facilitator. The following individuals were present. Each gave his/her brief introduction (see attached membership list also):

1. Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. (RBM), President ASNEngr
2. Sunil Sharma, Ph.D. (SS), President, ANMF)
3. Bineet Sharma (BKS), President, CAN-USA
4. Amod Dixit (AD), Executive Director, NSET, Kathmandu (Nepal)
5. Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D. (RS), Vice President, ASNEngr)
6. Suman Timsina (ST), President, NRN NCC of USA
7. Kanhainya Kayastha (KK), Vice Chair Technical Chair, ASNEngr
8. Pradeep Khanal (PK), Chair Program Committee, ASNEngr
9. Prabuddha Dahal (PD), Vice President, CAN-USA
10. Amod Pokhrel (AP), Vice Chair, Media Relations, CAN-USA
11. Divas Pradhan (DP), Member, CAN-USA
12. Nisha Thapa (NT), President, Saheyata.org
13. Prajesh Shrestha (PS), Member, CAN-USA
14. Pukar Malla, Ph.D. (PM), Vice President, CAN-USA
15. Janak Koirolia, M.D. (JK), Board of Directors, ANMF
16. Sangeeta Basnet Koirala, M.D. (SK), Board of Directors, ANMF
17. Suresh Ojha (SO), General Secretary, CAN-USA
18. Adit Mani Dixit (AMD), Member, CAN-USA

III. Purpose of the meeting and discussion

RBM stated the purpose of this meeting was to know the team members, establish a protocol of communication, come up with an action plan on creating the draft of the position paper within 6 months (around September 2010) and finalize it within next two years (around September 2012).

After this a lively and very effective discussion started.

RBM announced the following upcoming events: A joint panel discussion during NRN-NCC regional conference in Houston, TX during Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30, 2010 and July fourth weekend (July 02-04, 2010) in Boston, MA during ANA Convention. There will be a joint professional networking luncheon at Boston convention as well.

AD stated that his organization NSET in Nepal is 55 people strong. He said few of the early goals should be to create the communication channels between organizations and he was very excited to be part of this team. He said that while there have been progress made in Nepal and as long as Mercantile communication infrastructure stays intact, the communication can be re-established quickly through VSAT in case of major disaster. But, other emergency infrastructure is severely lacking. He normally visits US 3 to 4 times and he would be happy to meet with organizations lead in DC during his visit and talk to the mainstream media.

SO said what if something happens tomorrow? How would we find out about our relatives? He emphasized the need for Nepali diaspora to establish a proper media relationship with the mainstream US media.

KK talked about need for following the building code, the communication building floor should be vibration free to protect the communication equipment. He would like to visit NSET during July KTM visit.

SS stated that the ANMF Nepal has started the group discussion in Nepal and everyone agreed that the counterpart organizations of all concerned diaspora organization should have parallel meetings in Nepal as well.

BKS emphasized that we need to have immediate, short term and long term strategies and we should work accordingly. Nepali diaspora will look at us for the leadership if something happens tomorrow.

Bi-monthly meeting of larger group was recommended, while working sub-committee of each organization would meet as often as they want. A communication channels between intra groups was deemed necessary to make sure no overlapping of work would happen.

Joint Committee Structure: A good discussion ensued:

- Working in smaller group and report to bigger group in two months
- Have all members in bigger group
- Communicate right away via email
- Smaller group can communicate regularly
- 2-3 people from each organization will be in core committee and they will coordinate sub committees, and in 2 months all of the members come together for discussion/meeting.

- New subcommittee will look to other factors like media through other supporting organizations
- Media should be controlled by umbrella committee
- We have to manage our relation with boarder American society. Currently we don't do that very well.

Fund Raising: Everyone agreed that we need to have good funding for this project. General concession was to raise funds by individual organizations in the form of research grants for students in US and Nepal. SO, RBM, BKS, NT, KK had following inputs

- Apply for grant with UN, WB etc.
- Fund raising by individual organizations
- Support research students in US and Nepal to collect data for position paper
- Nepali ambassador?

IV. New business

- **Electronic Medical Record (EMR):** NT of Sahayeta.org described an EMR implementation project for Kathmandu Model Hospital and implications on disaster recovery.
- **Subcommittee of Counterpart Organizations in Nepal:** SS stated that their Nepali counterpart ANMF-Nepal has started brainstorming on connecting with the rest of the counterpart organizations in Nepal.

V. Action Items:

- Ramesh B. Malla and Suresh Ojha will work on TOC for the position paper which will be the basis for grant applications to various INGOs.
- Ramesh B. Malla will explore if a meeting can be arranged or any member of lead organizations can meet with Amod Dixit during his visit to Washington, D.C. at a conference at the World Bank next week.
- Subcommittee of all three lead organizations will start developing list of items they will be responsible for which will be shared with bigger group to avoid duplicates.
- Bineet Sharma will work with CAN-Nepal for a kick off meeting of counterpart organizations and stake holders in Nepal which will include Nisha Thapa, Amod Dixit, representative of MOST, HLCIT, ANMF-Nepal during Nisha Thapa's Nepal visit (June 7th to 12th)
- All lead organizations will work on establishing funds
- All lead organizations will identify research students in Nepal and US to start collecting data
- Subcommittee of all lead organizations in US and Nepal will start meeting regularly and communicate with the lead in a regular basis through emails of their progress/issues/actions

- Joint Committee will meet in two months (immediately after July 4th weekend?)

VI. Adjournment

Toward the end of the meeting, Suresh Ojha recognized the contribution of Kanhaiya Kayastha to bringing awareness to an immediate need for an earthquake building design code in Nepal. Ramesh B. Malla and Bineet Sharma recognized Suresh Ojha's contribution in initiating discussion immediately after the Haitian earthquake of January 2010 on the need for Nepali diaspora's role for earthquake disaster preparedness in Nepal. Ramesh B. Malla thanked Bineet Sharma, President of CAN-USA and Sunil Sharma, President of ANMF for their leadership, tireless effort and contribution for this joint earthquake preparedness initiative

Bineet Sharma thanked Ramesh B. Malla, President of ASNEngr, on behalf of everyone for conducting the meeting so professionally and for his leadership, persistent and tireless effort and contribution to get this joint effort off the ground and running. He also reminded everyone that this joint effort is unprecedented and unparalleled of any endeavors Nepali diaspora has taken.

At around 6:20 PM PST, Ramesh B. Malla thanked everyone for attending the meeting and supporting the Joint ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal and adjourned the meeting.

Minutes drafted by:
Prajesh Shrestha

Revised by:
Bineet Sharma and Ramesh B. Malla

Attachments:
Meeting agenda for May 23,2010
Membership list (dated 15 May 2010)

ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA Joint Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal

Committee Kick-Off Meeting (Teleconference)

Date : Sunday, May 23, 2010

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (East Coast USA time)

Agenda (Draft)

1. Meeting Call to Order (Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.)
2. Introduction
 - Attendees- Self
 - Organizations - By each presidents
3. Objective of the Meeting
4. Review and modification of the Agenda (Attached)
5. Review of the Collaborative Document -- “ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA Joint Initiative to Prepare a Position Paper on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief for Nepal” (Attached)
6. Highlights of Important past and in progress/upcoming activities
 - Joint Panel Session at the 4th Regional NRN Conference, Houston, TX; May 28-30, 2010
 - Joint Panel session at the 2010 ANA Convention, Boston, MA; July 02-04, 2010.
7. Joint Committee Structure/Review Committee list
8. Communication Mechanism
 - Establish a mechanism of effective communication among various sub-committees and organizations..
9. Open discussion
 - Goal & Mission
 - Major Action Items & Mile Stones
 - By who & When
 - Resources Needed
 - Immediate, near future and long term strategies
 - Mobilizing Nepali diaspora
 - etc.....
10. Supporting Organizations and outreach
11. Finding and Resources
12. Format/Outline of Strategy document/Position paper
13. Future meetings:
 - With Amod Dixit, Executive Director, National Society or Earthquake Technology – Nepal (June 0`-06, 2010)
 - Regular meeting frequencies
- 14 New business
15. Summary & Wrap-up
16. Meeting adjournment

Date Revised: May 15, 2010

ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA Committees

ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA Joint Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) --<http://www.ASNEngr.org>

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Invited Guest Members from Nepal

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