

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

Full Committee and Invited Guest Meeting (Teleconference)

Date: Sunday, December 11, 2011

Time: 9:00 PM –10:30 PM (East Coast USA time)

Dial in phone: 1-213-342-3000 (Los Angeles, CA)/ **Participant Access Code:** 278699

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

Dr. Ramesh B. Malla (President, ASNEngr) called the teleconference meeting of the Full Committee and invited guests of the ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA Joint Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal to order at 9:00 PM (EST, U.S.A. time) on December 11, 2011.

II. Roll call

A roll call was requested by the chair. The meeting was attended by members of the Joint Initiative Committee from the three lead professional organizations (American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr), America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA)), representatives from the supporting organizations, and invited guests from the U.S. and Nepal. The following persons were present at the meeting:

1. Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. (RBM), President, ASNEngr
2. Nabin Khanal (NK), President, CAN-USA
3. Bineet Sharma (BKS), Founding President CAN-USA
4. Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D. (RS), Vice President, ASNEngr
5. Suresh Ojha (SPO), Chair, Disaster Preparedness Committee, CAN-USA
6. Jishnu Subedi, Ph.D. (JS), Institute of Engineering, Lalitpur, Nepal
7. Surya Narayan Shrestha (SNS), Deputy Executive Director, NSET, Kathmandu, Nepal
8. Dr. Pradeep Vaidya (PV), Institute of Medicine, Kathmandu, Nepal
9. Jagannath Ghimire (JG), General Secretary, ASNEngr
10. Drona Rasali, Ph.D. (DR), ASNEngr, Canada

Absent by notice:

Dr. Sunil Sharma (President, ANMF), Dr. Marck Hauswald, Dr. David Wachter, Dr. Sanjeed Pandey (Nepal), Mr. Kanhaiya Kayastha (KK), and Mr. Amod Dixit (Nepal)

III. Review and Modification of Agenda:

Agenda for the meeting was reviewed and agreed upon by all participants without any modification.

-SPO requested Dr. Pradeep Vaidya to meet in Nepal to talk about collaborating to find out medical related information. Suresh is visiting Nepal on Dec 14 to Jan 15.

IV. Approval of Sept 11 meeting: This item was tabled as the meeting minutes were not ready. RBM indicated that meeting notes been still collected to prepare the minutes and hopefully, the minutes will be ready at the next meeting.

V. Update on Joint Committee Structure:

RBM informed that:

Full committee: There are 8-10 representatives from each of the three organizations, about 40 invited guests from Nepal and about 5 from Canada and Australia.

Steering Committee: There are 4-5 members from each three organizations, 6-7 guests from Nepal.

Subcommittee: This is formed in each of the three organizations to write up the position paper.

Editorial Team: An Editorial Team has been gathered to review, edit and the Joint Earthquake Preparedness position paper. The editorial committee has eleven members.

VI. Steering Committee and ASNEng. ANMF and CAN-USA Subcommittee reports:

RBM indicated that the Steering Committee of this Joint Earthquake Preparedness Initiative meets every week and has been working on preparing the position paper. They are currently focused on finalizing the DRAFT Earthquake Preparedness position paper. Each 3 lead organization (ANMF, ASNEng, and CAN-USA) has subcommittee to work on this initiative and they have been meeting to provide information for the position paper (see below for more.)

VII. Strategy/Concept/Position/ paper on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal -Status update

RBM stated that the purpose of positioning paper is to present what efforts have been done so far and make recommendations for possible action needed in case a disaster such as an earthquake hits Nepal.

RBM summarized what is going on. Around 70 pages of information has been compiled, and currently being revised and request to bring the references to right format.

RBM informed about creation and make-up of the Editorial team for the Joint Earthquake Position paper.

CAN-USA: SPO said updates on the draft would be ready in a day or two.

ANMF had no update.

ASNEng: In behalf of Kanhaiya Kayastha (Chair ASNEng Subcommittee), RS reported that the ASNEng part of draft had been revised and was in the process of obtaining references from the authors.

VIII. Communication /Interaction with relevant institutions/organizations in Nepal

Communication is ongoing with multiple organizations such as the US Embassy, USAID, Institute of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Kathmandu Municipality, National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) and others in Nepal to gather information of the position paper and to make aware of the Joint Earthquake Preparedness initiative and the preparation of the position paper that ASNEng, ANMF and CAN-USA are undertaking.

IX. Supporting Organizations and outreach

DR talked about Livestock Emergency Preparedness and its importance to the economy in Nepal. He indicated that he would a few key individuals in Nepal in this area to join this group. He also sent an account on need for livestock safety in the event of Earthquake to RBM and K. Kayastha (KK) to include in the Position paper.

SNS talked about NSET's effort to contribute to the Joint Earthquake Position paper. They met with KK and RS when they were in Nepal last October – December. NSET is trying to connect with the USAID and US Embassy to gather more information. They will also add the account on Nepal Government's effort. They hope to send the information to RBM this week.

RBM: Requested RS to prepare a list of meetings conducted in Nepal during the preparation of this position paper

JS provided an update on the Institute of Engineering's course curriculum on the subject of earthquake and disaster relief. They have implemented a new Master's program in Disaster Risk Management with 20 students. Prof. Dr Ryuichi Yatabe, Vice President, Ehime University-Japan has agreed to prepare write up on landslides during earthquake.

X. **Conferences and meetings - In U.S. and in Nepal**

RS presented a brief report on the participation by ASNEng, ANMF, and CAN-USA at the 2011 NRN Global conference and other meetings/presentations in Kathmandu during October 2011:

a. Presentation at the NRN Global Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal; Oct. 12-14, 2011.

On the 1st day of NRN conference, KK and RS presented a paper written by K. Kayastha, R. Malla and R. Shrestha on Earthquake preparedness and Disaster Relief in behalf ASNEng/ANMF/CAN-USA in the session titled “Role of NRNs in Disaster Relief of Nepal” which was chaired by the United States Ambassador to Nepal His Excellency Mr. Scott H. DeLisi. The NRN conference was attend by several other ASNEng, ANMF and CAN-USA members, including Dr. Ambika Adhikari (ASNEng Board member), Dr. Prahlad Pant (Fellow-Life, ASNEng), Naresh Koirala (ASNEng Board member), G. Adhikary (ANMF Board member), and B. Niraula (CAN-USA Board member).

b. Meeting at the U. S. Embassy, Kathmandu: On October 21, 2011.

A meeting was held at the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu on Earthquake Disaster Risk and Preparedness between members of ASNEng, ANMF, and CAN-USA and several officials from the US. Embassy and U.S. AID. Total of 18 individuals were in attendance, including U.S. Ambassador Honorable Scott, H. DeLisi, David Atteberry (Mission Director, USAID/Nepal), Sheila Roquitte (Director, DRR Office, USAID/Nepal), Terry White (Public Affairs Officer, U. S. Embassy), Kanhaiya Kayastha(ASNEng), Dr. Rajendra Shrestha (ASNEng), B. Niraula (CAN-USA), Dr. Pradeep Vaidya (ANMF and Institute of Medicine), and Amod Dixit (NSET).

c. Other Meetings and presentations:

RS and KK attended various other meetings and made presentations in the subject area of the joint Earthquake Preparedness effort by the 3 professional organizations (ASNEng, ANMF, and CAN-USA) in Kathmandu during the month of October 2011. They included meeting at Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) office on Oct. 17, meeting and presentation at the Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk Campus on Oct 20 and 23, receptions with Kathmandu Municipality on Oct 17 and at the office of the Vice President of Nepal, Honorable Mr. Parmananda Jha in Bahadur Bhawan on Oct. 17, and the meeting at NSET’s office on Oct 24.

d. ASNEng, ANMF and CAN-USA Annual Conferences 2012

RBM informed that the Conference will be hosted by the Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter of ASNEng. He is looking forward to a bigger and better presence and would like to invite ANMF to join the conference along with ASNEng and CAN-USA.

XI. **Open discussion**

The meeting attendees briefly discussed about the immediate, near future and long term strategies related to earthquake preparedness in Nepal, potential resources/funding sources, mobilizing Nepali diaspora, implementing some projects of practical benefit in Nepal.

SPO stated that Command Center in US can communicate with Command Center in Nepal. Prabhas Pokharel from Nepal is working to coordinate with the Home Ministry of Nepal.

DR stated that the NRN SKIE task force has recently added disaster preparedness to its activities. He indicated that RBM and RS would be attending the next NRN SKIE Task Force meeting.

SPO indicated that there is need to investigate on Web portal which will be the sole source of information before, during and after the disaster. He would like to explain what values it brings in case of disaster etc during a scheduled meeting this week. He invited interested members to join to get more info (Thursday meeting on Portal 6:00 DP meeting CAN-USA 12/15/201)

SNS informed about the January 15-16 being the Annual Earthquake Safety day in Nepal. NSET is taking one of the lead role in organizing. The symposium would be on 12th and 13th. He invited Nepali diaspora to attend and present. He would send the symposium flyer to the members of this Joint Earthquake Preparedness Committee. SPO indicated that he will present in person as he is going to be in Kathmandu during that time.

SPO indicated that we need to explore on mechanism to apply for grand funding for projects to perform in Nepal. RBM stated funding from various U.S. and international agencies are possible for collaborative work in Nepal. The U.S. participants need to abide by U.S. rules and regulation and the collaborating partners in Nepal needs to follow Nepal Government's policies. We will revisit this item vigorously after the completion of the Position paper.

XII. **Old Business:** There was no old business.

XIII. **New business:** There was no new business.

XIV. **Next meeting:**

Next meeting of the full committee and guests of the Joint Initiative is decided to be held on **Sunday, March 11, 2012 (9:00 PM, East Coast Time, USA)**

XV. Meeting adjournment

RBM thanked everyone for attending the meeting and supporting the Joint ANMF/ASNEng/CAN-USA Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal and adjourned the meeting at 10:10PM.

Minutes drafted by:
Bineet Sharma and Nabin Khanal

Reviewed and commented by:
Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D.
Kanhaiya Kayastha, P.E, S.E.

Final review and revision done by:
Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.

March 11, 2012

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AGENDA

(December.09, 2011/RBM)

1. Meeting Call to Order (Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.)
2. Introduction - Attendees- Self
3. Review and Modification of Agenda
4. Minutes from last meeting (September 11, 2011)
5. Update on Joint Committee Structure – Full Committee, Control/Steering Committee, and subcommittees
6. Steering Committee and ASNEng. ANMF and CAN-USA Subcommittee reports
7. Strategy/Concept/Position/ paper on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal
-Status update
-Formation of the Editorial Team
8. Communication /Interaction with relevant institutions/organizations in Nepal
(U.S. Embassy, U.S. AID, NAST, Institute of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, NSET, Kathmandu Municipality, and others)
9. Supporting Organizations and outreach
10. Conferences and meetings - In U.S. and in Nepal
 - a. Presentation at the NRN Global Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal; Oct. 12-14,2011
 - b. Meetings in Nepal with U.S. Embassy, U.S. AID, NAST, Institute of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, NSET, and Kathmandu Municipality (Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D.; Kanhaiya Kaystha, P.E.; S.E.; Gaury Adhikary, M.D.; Pradeep Vaidya, M.D.; Jishnu Subedi, Ph.D., Amod Dixit; Bijay Niraula; and others (October 2011)
 - c. ASNEng, ANMF and CAN-USA Annual Conferences 2012
11. Open discussion
 - Immediate, near future and long term strategies
 - Resources/Funding
 - Mobilizing Nepali diaspora
 - Projects in Nepal
 - etc.....
12. Old Business
13. New business
14. Next meeting:-- Sunday, March 11, 2012 (9:00 PM, East Coast Time,