

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

Full Committee and Invited Guest Meeting (Teleconference)

Date: Sunday, June 10, 2012

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. Meeting 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 June 10, 2012.

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 America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) 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. Sunil Sharma, MD. (SS), President ANMF
3. Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D. (RS), Vice President, ASNEngr
4. Gaury Adhikari, M.D. (GA), ANMF.
5. Mark Housewald, M.D (MH) ANMF.
6. Upendra Karna, Ph.D. (UK), ASNEngr.
- 7.. Kanhaiya Kayastha,S.E. (KK), Vice Chair, Technical Comm, ASNEngr

III. Review and Modification of Agenda:

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

IV. **Comments and Approval of March 11, 2012 meeting minutes:** The meeting minutes of the 11th March, 2012 was reviewed and approved unanimously (proposed by KK and seconded by UK.).

V. **Steering Committee report and update on Joint Committee structure – Full committee.**

RBM informed that the Steering committee and editing team are working on the position paper draft and the writing and editing taking time as the work is being done in a group. However, the work is progressing steadily.

VI. **ASNEng ANMF and CAN-USA Subcommittee reports:**

SS stated that the editing of the position paper is going on for ANMF. Also, ANMF is going to provide answers to all comments received from RBM. SS will submit to RBM for final draft.

SS stated that he was working with CAN-USA regarding the hospital status in Nepal, and that he also talked in the last May 11-12,'12 ANMF Chicago Annual conference on the communication side.

He suggested that a community data base in Nepal be generated in order to receive information when earthquake strikes in Nepal, including for the NRN's. RBM agreed with this and suggested that the committee should make this as one of the top priority items in the future.

KK stated that he had submitted the complete ASNEng portion of the position paper draft on May 2, 2012, and that the submittal was complete with the Table of Contents, Abstracts, Objectives, and References.

There was no representative from CAN-USA to present the report from the CAN-USA subcommittee.

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

RBM stated that he would send his final comments to all three organizations in a week. And this 6th draft (Draft 6F) will then be discussed in the next July 8, 2012 Steering committee and Editorial Team meeting.

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

MH stated that he was in communication with Dr. Pradeep Vaidya, Institute of Medicine and others in Nepal to gather information for ANMF. He added that Dr. Vaidya is also familiar with JICA projects and its involvement in Nepal.

IX. Supporting Organizations and outreach

It was noted that CAN-USA is involved in Ham radio and Emergency Communications outreach with other organizations in Nepal.

X. Conferences and meetings

RBM gave an update on the Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual Conference held in Leesburg, VA (the Greater Washington,, DC area) on May 26-27th 2012, hosted by the Greater Washington D.C. (GWDC) Local Chapter of ASNEng. The conference was a great success. About 160 participants including 110 practicing engineers, scientists, technologists, academicians, and students from private and multinational industries, government agencies, and academia, and 50 accompanying guests attended the conference. The conference drew participants from 15 States in the U.S., Canada, and Nepal. He added that there were 4 technical sessions with total 15 technical presentations. One and half sessions (7 presentations) were dedicated to earthquake preparedness and disaster relief in Nepal

SS mentioned about the ANMF Annual Conference held in Chicago on May 11-12, 2012. GA stated that there were about 40 attendees and the next year's ANMF annual conference would be in Ann Arbor, MI.

RBM informed that he would check with Dr. Prakash Malla and Dr. Bishnu Phuyal if they could help organized a session on earthquake preparedness as in the past 2 years in the upcoming ANMA/NASeA Convention to be held in Indianapolis, IN, on August 31-September 02, 2012.

RBM indicated that he read an e-mail sent to a group recently about the National Conference on Science and Technology (being organized by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, NAST) held in Kathmandu, Nepal during June 6-8, 2012. It is too late to participate in this conference this year. However, we should plan on participating actively in this conference next time.

There are 2 other upcoming conferences, one ANA Convention in Dallas, TX during June 29-July 01, 2012 and the other NRN ICC 7th Regional Conference in Sydney, Australia during August 30-September 01, 2012. He encouraged interested committee members to actively participate in these conferences as much as possible.

RBM informed that he is unaware of any members of the Joint Earthquake Preparedness committee attending the NRN ICC 7th Regional Conference in Sydney. He would, however, explore on the possibility of sending a paragraph on the current status of the joint ANMF/ASNEng/CAN-USA initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal to the conference organizer(s) for their consideration to present at the Conference.

XI. Open discussion

All attending members discuss at length about preparing a list of volunteers with expertise in engineering, science, medicines, information technology, and other useful professional fields from the NRN Diaspora in the USA and other countries, and local

individuals in Nepal that will prove to be very helpful, as a part of the earthquake preparedness and disaster relief effort in Nepal.

They also agreed that this is an important project and that can be taken parallel to the current position paper preparation project. More discussion on this will be held at the next meeting.

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

XIII. **New business:** Preparation of “*Engineering, Science and Technology Volunteers’ List for Nepal*” as a part of the earthquake preparedness effort in Nepal.

XIV. **Next meeting:**

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

As a reminder the Steering Committee meeting will be held on: **Sunday, July 8th, 2012. (9:00 PM EST)**

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 approximately at 10:15PM.

Minutes drafted by:
Kanhaiya Kayastha, S.E.
September 07, 2012

Review and revision done by:
Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.
September 08, 2012

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AGENDA

1. Meeting Call to Order (Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.)
 2. Introduction /Roll Call – Attendees
 3. Review and Modification of Agenda
 4. Comments and Approval of minutes from last meeting (March 11, 2012)
 5. Steering Committee report and update on Joint Committee Structure – Full Committee, Control/Steering Committee, and subcommittees
 6. ASNEngr, ANMF and CAN-USA Subcommittee reports - Kanhaiya Kayastha, S.E. (ASNEngr), Sunil Sharma, M.D. (ANMF), and Suresh Ojha (CAN-USA.)
 7. Strategy/Concept/Position/ paper on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal -Status update
 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 -
 - (a). Update on the 2012 Joint ASNEngr/CAN-USA Annual Conference, Leesburg, VA; May 26-27, 2012 (Hosted by: Greater Washington D.C. Chapter of ASNEngr) – (See attached Press Release.)
 - (b). Update on the ANMF Annual Conference , Chicago on May 11-12, 2012.
 - (c). ANMA/NASeA Convention, Indianapolis, IN, August 31-September 02, 2012
 - (d). ANA Convention, Dallas, TX, June 29-July 1, 2012
 - (e). National Conference on Science and Technology, Kathmandu, June 6-8, 2012 (Organized by: Nepal Academy of Science and Technology.
 - (f) NRN ICC 7th Regional Conference 30th August - 1st September, 2012, Sydney, Australia.
 - (g). Others
 11. Open discussion
- Future activities -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:--
 - **Full Committee** - Sunday, August 05, 2012 (9:00 PM, East Coast Time, USA) – Tentative
 - **Steering Committee & Editorial Team** – Sunday, July 08, 2012 (9:00 PM, East Coast Time)
 15. Meeting adjournment