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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D.
President, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng)

First of all, I would like to extend my deep appreciation for your confidence and trust in me. My second term as American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) President is coming to completion soon. It has been a pleasure to see the Society grow and succeed on so many aspects: it has enhanced its visibility, improved ties with organizations and agencies in Nepal for future partnership through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), brought awareness about necessity of earthquake preparedness in Nepal, provided financial stability for the scholarship program, took the lead in organizing the first standalone ASNEng conference in Houston in 2011, and secured the IRS tax exempt status with tax deduction incentives to donors and sponsors.

I have been engaged with ASNEng since its inception in 2007, as a steering committee member, and subsequently as its Vice President (2008 – 2012) and President (2012-2016). I had traveled to Nepal in 2011 and 2015 participating in Non-Resident Nepali Association's (NRNA) Global Conference. These endeavors culminated in landmark achievement of signing off of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ASNEng and Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) on Oct. 16, 2015, and the second one with National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) on March 25, 2016. The MoU signing ceremony with NEA was well attended by dignitaries from NEA, Nepal Engineering Council (NEC), Institute of Engineering (IOE), Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, and the ASNEng BOD members.

In the 2015 NRNA Global Conference, Kanhaiya Kayastha, P.E., S.E. and I took the time to meet with the attendees and dignitaries from various agencies and organizations, and distributed the position paper on "Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster in Nepal," including Rt. Hon. Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli. There, we networked, made contacts and introduced the core activities of ASNEng that was also included in an interview to Saathi TV.

My participation in the 5th NRNA Global Conference as the leader representative of ASNEng on Oct. 12-14, 2011 resulted in presentation of a paper titled "Earthquake hazards in Nepal and a joint effort in the preparedness and disaster relief" with Kanhaiya Kayastha, P.E., S.E. on the opening day. We also attended a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Nepal hosted by former Ambassador Mr. Scott DeLisi and his staff and the USAID staff in which we discussed various aspects of earthquake preparedness in Nepal.

(Continued on page 2)

In addition, we introduced ASNEng and its activities in meetings at IOE, NAST, and NSET.

The Merit Awards Program to the students with highest grade in the entrance examination in any engineering field at the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu University, Pokhara University and Purbanchal University in Nepal, initiated in 2013, is a noble idea to help deserving students in Nepal. I had contributed \$4,000 to ASNEng to support this program in 2014, with my contribution of \$2000 matched 100% by ConocoPhillips Company. In addition, I have provided financial support to various activities of ASNEng through the ConocoPhillips Volunteer Grant Program, year after year.

I had taken the initiative and provided leadership in organizing the 4th ASNEng/ CAN-USA Conference and Annual Membership Meeting on July 9-10, 2011, with huge success. This conference had a special significance in that it was organized standalone for the first time. In previous years, ASNEng held the conference and meeting at the venue of the America Nepali Association (ANA) annual convention.

The position paper on “Earthquake Preparedness in Nepal” jointly prepared by ASNEng, Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) and America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) was published on May 1, 2015, as a result of over five years of hard work. I had contributed to the position paper by accomplishing extensive editing, preparing the “Foreword,” contributing article, providing a contribution of \$500 Volunteer Grant to offset the printing cost, and facilitating the much-needed momentum for its timely publication.

I had played a significant role in securing the 501(c)(3) tax exempt status for ASNEng through use of my previous such experience at Nepalese Association of Houston, as president (2000-2010). I also sought assistance from Mr. Laxman Pradhan, CPA from Maryland for that purpose. The tax exempt status provides incentive of tax deduction to the ASNEng donors and sponsors, among other privileges.

As the leader of ASNEng, I had served as Chair of Bylaws Amendment and Membership Standard Committee (2008 – 2012). Numerous major bylaws amendments were made during that period and included in the ASNEng bylaws published on May 21, 2012, which stands effective to-date.

It has been a privilege having the opportunities to work and interact with all of you. Over these years, ASNEng has achieved remarkable success such as publication of the position paper and signing of the landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NEA and NSET. I would like to extend my best wishes to ASNEng in achieving stellar success in its growth and accomplishment of its purposes and objectives in years to come. And remember, ASNEng belongs to us – all of us.

Last but not least, Rabin Bhattarai, Ph.D., Chair, Publication/ Newsletter Committee, has been doing a fantastic job in putting together the ASNEng Newsletter. This time around too, he has demonstrated his passion for publication of Newsletter, vol. 8, by meticulously bringing it together, and I highly appreciate his time and efforts.

With kindest regards,

Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D.

President, American Society of Nepalese Engineers
(ASNEng)

www.ASNEng.org

Message from the ASNEng Newsletter Committee

We are glad to bring forward Volume 8 of the ASNEng Newsletter. The Newsletter Committee appreciate your valuable suggestions, comments, input/feedback, and contributed news and articles. Without your constant support, we wouldn't have been able to bring you another volume of our newsletter. We hope that you will continue to provide constructive suggestions and feedbacks for improving the quality of the Newsletter. We also request you to keep on sending news items, technical articles and other interesting pieces that would appeal to the mass readers. Please send your contributions, questions or comments about newsletter to the Newsletter/Publication Committee at newsletter@asnengr.org.

Announcements

Call for membership

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) aims at bringing engineers and professionals in related areas together to exchange ideas and share knowledge for the benefit of the human society. The society also strives to bring forth programs that promote engineering,

scientific, and technological advancement in Nepal. We also offer the scholarships to the brightest and most promising future engineers in Nepal. Needless to say, your valuable support and participation is more important than ever.

Membership is open to engineers as well as scientists and technologists who have qualifications and expertise in areas closely related to any branch of engineering. To join the society, please fill the online application form at <http://www.asnengr.org/membership/MembershipOnline.php>. We appreciate your support and look forward to your active participation in the society's activities.

Please renew your annual membership

Your continued support is crucial to our society. Please renew your membership using the following link:

<http://www.asnengr.org/membership/MembershipRenewal.php>

If you have already renewed your membership for 2016 or you are a life member of the society, please disregard this message. If you have any problems with online renewal system, please contact us at info@ASNENGr.org.

Call to join ASNEng Committees

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) is pleased to announce this call for interest to join its various committees. If you are interested to join any of the committees, you are invited to contact the chair of the particular committee(s) or send your interest via e-mail to info@ASNENGr.org. Your contribution to the society as a member of one of our committees will be highly appreciated.

ASNEng Major Events in 2015 and 2016

Earthquake preparedness position paper distributed at various events

The book titled "Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal – a Position Paper" was distributed during various events in Nepal. The position paper book was jointly prepared by American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng), America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) and was edited by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. (F. ASNEng); Kanhaiya Kayastha, S.E., P.E., (F. ASNEng); Sunil Sharma, M.D., MPH (ANMF); and Suresh Ojha, M.S.E.E. (CAN-USA). The book was published just after the April 25, 2015 Gorkha-Nepal Earthquake. This is the first of its kind published by the Non-Resident Nepali (NRN) Professional Diaspora in the U.S.A. and Canada. The information provided in the book is for any one concerned with earthquake preparedness and disaster relief in Nepal, for possible future earthquakes. The recommendations and suggestions provided in the book may be helpful for those associated with making plans and policies and implementing the norms and regulations to make Nepal a more earthquake-resilient country. The on-line version of the position paper book can be viewed and downloaded at:

http://www.asnengr.org/earthquake_position_paper

The copies of the position paper was distributed at Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) International General Assembly and Global Conference on October 2015 by Dr. Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D., President, ASNEng and Er. Kanhaiya Kayastha, S.E., Vice-chair, Technical Committee, ASNEng. A copy of the position paper was also handed over to the Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Honorable K.P. Sharma Oli, at the event.

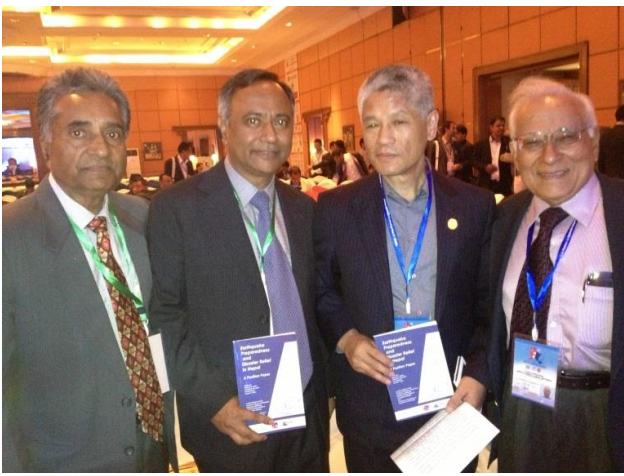


Dr. Rajendra Shrestha, Dr. Ambika Adhikari and Er. Kanhaiya Kayastha, ASNEngr presenting the position paper to then Finance Minister of Nepal, Hon. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat at the NRNA Global Conference, on October 16, 2015

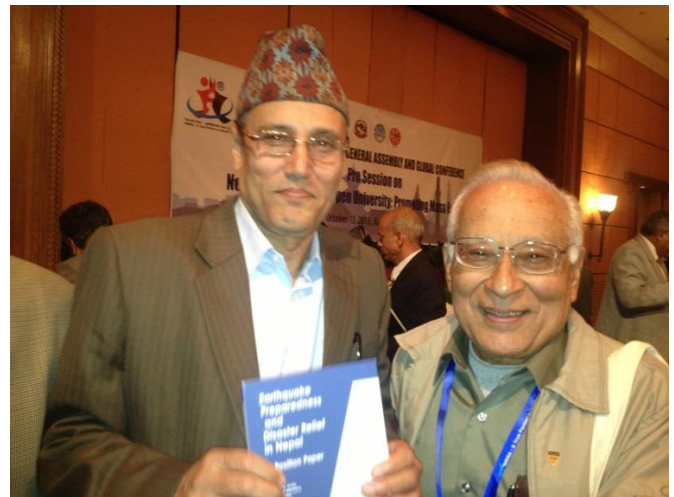
The position paper was also distributed at the Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) global engineer's meeting and in various other meetings and gatherings held in Kathmandu on October 16, 2015.



Position Paper presented to Er. Dhruba Raj Thapa, President, NEA (From left: Er. Kanhaiya Kayastha, ASNEngr; Dr. Rajendra K. Shrestha, President, ASNEngr; and Er. Dhruba R. Thapa, President, NEA)



From left: Bishwa K. Mainali, Sr. Advocate, NRNA Advisor; Dr. Upendra Mahato, NRNA Founding President; Dr. Shesh Ghale, President, NRNA; Er. Kanhaiya Kayastha, NRNA, ASNEngr.



Position Paper presented to Prof. Dr. Jiba Raj Pokharel, Vice Chancellor, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Kathmandu, Nepal.

The position paper was also distributed at the meeting at the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), Kathmandu on October 19, 2015.



Position Paper copies handed over to Dr. Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director, NSET and Er. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Deputy Executive Director, NSET

2015 Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Conference Proceedings/Book of Abstracts published

The conference proceedings/book of abstracts of the 8th Annual Conference of American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) held in North Brunswick, New Jersey on August 29-30, 2015 has been published. The proceedings/book of abstract comprises of a title page, foreword and acknowledgements from the Conference General, Technical, and Local chairs/co-chairs, list of conference organizing committees and their members, conference sponsors/donors, ASNEng and CAN-USA Board of Directors members and officers, overall and detailed program schedules, and abstracts of the technical presentations delivered at the Conference, excluding those presented in the Plenary session. The proceedings has total of 40 pages and contains 20 technical abstracts. It was edited by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., F. ASNEng and Thakur Dhakal, P.E., Conference Technical Chair and Co-Chair, respectively.

The conference proceedings can be found online under 8th ASNEng Annual Conference and Meeting on the Annual Conferences and Meetings page of the Society:

<http://www.asnengr.org/details.php?id=43>

Here are a few pictures taken at the conference:



Invited Guest Speaker, His Excellency, Dr. Arjun K. Karki, Nepalese Ambassador to the United States, Embassy of Nepal, Washington, D.C. (ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference, North Brunswick, NJ: August 29-30, 2015)



Keynote Speaker, Gyan C. Acharya, U.N. Under-Secretary General & High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United Nations, NY (ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference, North Brunswick, NJ: August 29-30, 2015)



Invited Speaker, Dhruba Thapa, President of Nepal Engineers' Association, Kathmandu, Nepal (ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference, North Brunswick, NJ: August 29-30, 2015)



A Group Photo of Some of the Attendees at the 8th Annual ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference, North Brunswick, NJ: August 29-30, 2015

Awards and Recognitions

Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., Founding President & Fellow (Life) of ASNEng from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT received following prestigious honors and recognitions:

1. Honorable Mention by Journal of Aerospace Engineering: The prestigious and prominent Journal of Aerospace Engineering (JAE) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) awarded the 2014 Honorable Mention recognition to Dr. Malla's following paper:

Malla, R.B., Anandakumar, G., and Ahn, J.

"Experimental, Numerical, and Analytical Studies of Stress and Displacement in Full-Scale Beds of Activated Alumina Granular Material for Space Life-Support System," *Journal of Aerospace Engineering*, Vol. 27, No. 2, April 14, 2016).

This recognition was given to the 2nd best paper among total of 109 published in 2014. The journal is highly competitive, with just about 26% acceptance rate in 2014.

2. Conference Symposium Chair and Proceedings Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Malla served as the Chair of one of the 4 symposia at the 15th ASCE ASD Biennial International Conference on Engineering, Science, Construction, and Operations in Challenging Environments (Earth & Space 2016) held in Orlando, Florida, U.S.A; April 11 - 15, 2016. The symposium titled was "Dynamics, Controls, Smart Structures, Sensors, and Monitoring and Diagnosis of Structures" and it consisted of 21 technical

presentations. He is also serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the Earth & Space 2016 Conference Proceedings that will be published by the ASCE, Reston, VA. In addition, he chaired a technical sessions on "Passive Vibrations and Damping" at the AIAA SciTech Forum/57th AIAA/ASME/ASCE/AHS/ASC Structures, Structural Dynamics and Materials (SDM) in San Diego, CA; January 04-08, 2016 and another session on "Advanced Analysis for Earthquake Engineering" at the ASCE-EMI Engineering Mechanics Conference 2016; Nashville, TN; May 22-25, 2016. He made 4 contributed technical presentations at these 3 conferences.

3. Invited Presentation: He delivered an invited presentation titled "Impact of High Speed Trains on Old Railroad Bridges" at *The Year in Infrastructure* Conference in London, UK: Nov. 03-05, 2015.

Notable Events

MoU signed between ASNEng and NEA

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) on October. 16, 2015 to create a framework for cooperation between two engineering organizations through mutual exchange of technological ideas, practices and scientific developments that will enable each organization to better serve Nepal, Nepalese people, Nepalese diaspora and the engineering profession as a whole. Copy of MOU is available at:

http://asnengr.org/ASNEngDocs/year2015/oct/MoU_ASNEng_NEA_16Oct2015.pdf

ASNEng President addressed the Annual General Meeting of Nepalese Association of Houston (NAH)

Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D., president, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) addressed the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nepalese Association of Houston (NAH) on April 15, 2016 and highlighted various activities of ASNEng with regards to earthquake preparedness in Nepal as well as assistance provided by

ASNEng to the victims of the 2015 Nepal earthquakes and the post-quake rapid assessment of buildings and structures in Nepal. On that occasion, Dr. Shrestha presented a copy of the position paper on “Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal,” jointly prepared by ASNEng, America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA), to Mr. Jyoti K. Ghimire, president, NAH.



Dr. Rajendra Shrestha (middle), Mr. Jyoti K. Ghimire, NAH President (Left) and Mr. Vishnu Nepal, NAH General Secretary (right)

ASNEng General Secretary interacted with Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) and National Society of Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET)

During his recent trip to Nepal, Dr. Upendra L Karna, P.E., general secretary of ASNEng had an interaction program with NEA president and other officials on April 29, 2016 at NEA office, Kathmandu to further advance our cooperation and knowledge sharing efforts between two organizations. Dr. Karna was gave technical presentation on “Consulting Engineering Practices and Procedures in the USA”. The program was jointly organized by NEA and Society of Consulting Architectural & Engineering Firms (SCAEF). Along with this presentation, he also briefed about design and construction of the special foundation techniques employed for the bridge foundation in the USA. About 50 Engineers and Architects from various sectors attended this program. Dr. Karna was presented a token of appreciation for his presentation by the presidents of both organizations.



Dr. Upendra Karna presenting his talk at NEA office

Dr. Karna also had an interaction program at Soaltee Hotel with Dr. Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director of NSET and other staffs on April 29, 2016. They discussed about how both organizations could continue the efforts of cooperation for technical knowledge sharing and other projects. Dr. Karna also attended a workshop jointly organized by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States Geological Survey (USGS) and NSET on “PHSA, seismic microzonation and monitoring. The scientists from USGS shared their insights on how to develop the earthquake map based on the real seismic data collected. The training workshop was on the anniversary of Gorkha earthquake. Dr. Karna had a brief interaction with USGS scientists and other participants during this workshop program.



Dr. Amod Mani Dixit (Executive Director, NSET) with Dr. Upendra L. Karna, P.E. (General Secretary, ASNEng) at the Workshop

ASNEng Technical Committee Vice-chair attended the “Consequences of 2015 Nepal Earthquake & Integrated Post-Disaster Management” seminar

Er. Kanhaiya Kayastha, Vice-chair, Technical Committee attended the “Consequences of 2015 Nepal Earthquake & Integrated Post-Disaster Management” seminar, representing ASNEng, held at Hotel De L’Annapurna, Kathmandu, Nepal, on October 8, 2015. He had also chaired in one of the afternoon sessions.

The Greater Houston Chapter of ASNEng 2016 spring picnic

The Greater Houston Chapter of ASNEng organized a spring picnic at Tom Bass Park, Houston, Texas on April 3, 2016 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. It was a beautiful day full of sunshine with temperature ranging from 55o to 77o Fahrenheit. Thanks to the families of Engineers and IT professionals residing in the Greater Houston area for making the picnic a grand success with beautiful memories. There were approximately 80 participants in the picnic including adults and kids. A nominal fee of \$20 per person was charged for the adults and there was no fee for the kids under 12 years of age. Majority of the lunch menu came from the restaurant where as few families contributed towards bringing special Nepali food items.

Bingo, painting and art competition for kids were among the highlights of the event. A small ceremony was organized to distribute the certificates to the winner of the art competition at the end. Dr Rajendra Shrestha, the president of American Society of Nepalese Engineers distributed the certificates to the winners and briefly talked about the history of the ANSEng, the Nepal 2015 Earthquake contributions, the MoU with Nepal Engineers’ Association (NEA) and National Society of Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) in Nepal and the upcoming Annual conference being hosted by the Houston Chapter. Mr Jagannath Ghimire invited everybody to join hands in making preparations for the 9th ASNEng/ CAN-USA Conference in Houston on September 17-18, 2016.



Attendees at ASNEng Greater Houston chapter picnic

Upcoming Events

Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting

All members are requested to attend the annual general membership meeting (AGM) as required by our by-laws will be held on June 25, 2016. The schedule and venue for the meeting are as follows:

Time: 2 PM to 5 PM (Eastern Time).

Place: Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, VA 22124-1785

2016 Joint ASNEngr and CAN-USA Conference

You are cordially invited and welcome to attend the Joint American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) Conference (2016 Joint ASNEngr/CAN-USA Annual Conference: 9th ASNEngr Annual Conference). The conference is scheduled to be held at Houston, Texas on September 17-18, 2018.

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) - a non-profit organization established in September 2007 with IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status – aims at providing a common platform for people of Nepalese background and their friends, in engineering and closely related scientific and technical areas to come together, exchange ideas, and support each other for their and the larger society's common good and benefits. It operates for engineering, scientific and technological research and educational purposes. The Society also strives at promoting engineering, scientific, and technological advancement in Nepal. The Membership application form and detailed information on ASNEngr and updates on its recent activities can be found at <http://www.ASNEngr.org>.

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