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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.

President, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng)
Connecticut, U.S.A.

It is a great pleasure to present to you the second comprehensive issue of the Newsletter of the American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng). The newsletter presents some of the key activities and accomplishments of the Society for the last 2 years with some highlights of forthcoming activities.

ASNEng was established in September 2007 to provide a platform for people of Nepalese heritage and friends of Nepal who are engineers and professionals in related scientific and technical areas to come together and exchange ideas, share experience, support each other and collectively help engage in activities that will help larger society and humanity. I am pleased to write that the Society now has the tax exempt status under the United States IRS Section 501(c)(3) effective June 22, 2010.

The Society elected its 2nd slate of Officers and members of the Board of Directors (BOD) for the 2010-12 terms at its Annual Conference and Meeting held in Boston, MA on July 05, 2010. I express my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude to the members of the Nepalese Engineering and Scientific community for entrusting me on the ASNEng President's position for the second 2-year term. On behalf of the Society and myself personally, I would like to sincerely thank the officers and BOD members who served during the first 2 year-term (2008-2010). I would like to congratulate all newly elected officers and BOD members and am looking forward to working with each of you in the following years.

Since ASNEng is a membership-based institution, support from each of us in the community is vital to empower the Society to champion our common cause and channel our voluntary effort and energy for the good of humanity. Therefore, I would like to invite you to join the Society and take active part in its many exciting forthcoming activities and events.

In a short span of about 4 years, the Society has come a long way and achieved several important milestones. Some of these activities include i) establishment of strong infrastructure for Society's day to day operations; ii) Annual Conferences every year since 2008; iii) Several membership drives and outreach programs; iv) Publication of Newsletters; iv) Career networking; v) Guidelines to establish Local Chapters and Scholarships; vi) Joint Initiative with ANMF and CAN-USA on Earthquake Disaster Preparedness in Nepal; vii) Collaborative activities with several Nepali organizations in the U.S., e.g., NRN-NCC, ANA, ANMA, and NASEA; viii) Initiation of dialog and collaborative endeavors with organizations in Nepal, including Ministry of Science and Technology, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Institute of Engineering, and National Society for Earthquake Technology; and, ix) Exploration of various ways for transferring technology to Nepal. In the near future, we are embarking upon initiatives in educational, research, training and professional development areas. I invite you to regularly visit ASNEng Website at <http://www.ASNEng.org> to learn more about the Society and to keep informed about the Society's forthcoming activities.

With distinct pleasure, I would like to invite you to attend /present at this year's Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual Conference that will be held Houston, TX; July 09-10, 2011 hosted by the Greater Houston Engineering and Scientific Community and the Nepalese Student Association, University of Houston Clear Lake. All signs show that this will be a landmark and one-of-its kind conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have supported the Society and its activities. Thanks are also due to Officers and members of various committees of the Society for their significant voluntary time and support.

Last but not least, on behalf of the Society, I would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Pradhmana Shrestha, P.E. for serving the Society as the Chair of the Publication/Newsletter Committee during the 2-year period of 2008-2010. Special thanks and gratitude to the members of the previous Newsletter Committee (Chaired by Mr. Pradhmana Shrestha, P.E) and the current Newsletter Committee (Chaired by Mr. Prakash Shrestha, P.E.) for their time and diligent effort in publishing this issue of the Society's Newsletters.

I hope that you would enjoy this issue of the ASNEng Newsletter and I am looking forward for your active support and participation.

Message from the ASNEng Newsletter Committee

We are very excited to publish this comprehensive second issue of the ASNEng Newsletter covering the news and activities of the Society since June 2009 to June 2011. The ASNEng Newsletter serves as a vehicle for publishing articles of common interest and values that are beneficial to the members of ASNEng and Engineering and Scientific communities worldwide. We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and find that it covers many news items about ASNEng that could be of interest and value.

We would like to thank the previous ASNEng Newsletter Committee Chair, Mr. Pradhuma Shrestha, P.E. and his team for putting together part of this and the earlier issue of the ASNEng Newsletter. The newsletter committee is working hard to bring out the third issue of its newsletter in the near future, which will be filled with exciting news, articles, event pictures and many other added features.

The Newsletter Committee would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who have provided their valuable suggestions, comments, input/feedback, and contributed news and articles. We sincerely 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 contribution and feedback/comments to the Chair of the ASNEng Publication/Newsletter Committee, Mr. Prakash Shrestha, P.E. at E-mail: eng.prakashasnengr@gmail.com.

ASNEng Introduction and Standing Committees

Introduction

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) is a non-profit professional organization registered in the United States of America. One of the main objectives of the society is to provide a platform for people of Nepalese heritage and friends of Nepal who are engineers and professionals in related scientific and technical areas to

come together and exchange ideas, share experience, support each other and collectively help engage in activities that will help larger society and humanity. The Society also strives at promoting engineering and technological advancement in Nepal.

The Society was formally launched at the first general organizational meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 02, 2007. It was registered (incorporated) in the State of South Carolina on September 24, 2007. On June 22, 2010, the Internal Revenue Service approved ASNEng as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3).

This Society has been established to promote professional growth and advancement of engineers and scientists with Nepalese heritage and others having interest in Nepal, and mainly operates for promoting the engineering and scientific education, research, development training, practice, and technology transfer for the benefit of humanity. The Society's specific objectives/purposes include, but not limited to the following:

- To bring together people of Nepalese heritage and culture and other interested individuals pursuing careers in engineering, or closely related scientific and technical areas, for exchange and sharing of research, educational and practice related knowledge and experience, professional interaction, and collaborative activities, and provide opportunities to enhance their technical and professional competence.
- To collect, disseminate and exchange technical knowledge through publications, conferences, seminars and workshops.
- To inspire and empower members to maintain a high standard of professional conduct, achievements accomplishment, and sense of pride.
- To advance the professional well-being, and success of its members.
- To foster the spirit of scientific and engineering research, education and life-long learning throughout its membership base.
- To foster collaboration between its members and researchers, academicians, and practitioners worldwide.
- To recognize its members, other individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the welfare of the society.
- To promote engineering, scientific, and technological advancement in Nepal.
- To provide advice to public, corporate and government policy making bodies in the areas of engineering and scientific development, as needed and appropriate, for the public benefit.

ASNEng Standing Committees

To assist the Board of Directors to accomplish specific purpose or activity of the Society, the following Committees for 2011 are in effect. Members of ASNEng are highly encouraged to assist and join a standing committee of their interest. Please contact the respective chair of the standing committee if you are interested to help.

1) Outreach and Membership Recruitment Committee

The primary functions of this committee are to promote and increase visibility and awareness of the Society, plan and carry out events for recruiting members and assisting in fund raising to help various activities of the Society. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Chair: Bishnu Phuyal, Ph.D. (IL)

E-mail: bishnu.phuyal@navteq.com

Vice Chair: Sukh Gurung, Ph.D. (NY)

E-mail: sukhgurung@walla.com

2) Program Committee

The primary functions of this committee are to plan and carry out activities, events and programs including organizing meetings and conferences that benefit the members and Society as a whole. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Chair: Rishi Baral, P.E. (VA)

E-Mail: RBaral@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Open

3) Publication/Newsletter Committee

The primary functions of this Committee are to publish ASNEng Newsletters, and special bulletins to make the Society's members and general communities aware of the Society's activities and plans. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Chair: Prakash Shrestha, P.E. (TX)

E-mail: eng.prakashasnegr@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Samana Ghimire (CA)

E-mail: nepstdg@gmail.com

Secretary: Prabhakant Das (IL)

Email: prabhakant.das@gmail.com

4) Awards, Grants, and Scholarship Committee

The primary functions of this Committee are to come up with recommendations to establish an award/scholarship, prepare/revise guidelines and application forms for Society's awards, grants and scholarship, review applications received, make recommendations on applications, and make strategy plan and activities for increasing the number and amount of awards, grants and scholarship of the Society. The Committee has the

following working member(s):

Chair: Ankur Sharma (IL)

E-mail: sharmaankur@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Janak Thapa, P.E. (TX)

Email : janakthapa@hotmail.com

Secretary : Baikuntha Adhikari (AZ)

5) Bylaws Amendment and Membership Standard Committee

The primary objectives of this Committee are to collect comments on Society's existing performance and shortfalls, make requests for necessary amendments on the current Society's bylaws and submit them to the Board of Directors for approval. The current ASNEng bylaws were approved by the Steering Committee and have been in effect since January 01, 2008. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Chair: Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D. (TX)

Email: rajshrestha1234@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Lok Darshan Shrestha (VA)

E-mail: Lokds579@hotmail.com

6) Website and Database Committee

The primary functions of this Committee are to keep Society's website up-to-date, maintain and upgrade as and when required. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Chair: Sanjaya Gajurel, Ph.D. (OH)

E-mail: sanjaya.gajurel@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Nilesh Manandhar (MA)

E-Mail: neomanandhar@gmail.com

7) Technical Committee

The primary function of this Committee is to help in technology transfer and assist members to keep abreast of new development in various engineering and related scientific fields. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Chair: Open

Vice Chair: Kanhaiya Kayastha, P.E., S.E. (CA)

E-Mail: kkayastha@aol.com

8) Membership Review Committee

The primary functions of this Committee are to review membership application forms and membership guidelines review received membership applications and make recommendation for considerations. The Committee shall also make strategic plans and activities for membership growth and for the benefit of Society's members. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Members: (Officers) Pujan Joshi; Jagannath Ghimire, P.E.; Pradeep Khanal; Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.; and Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D.; Smarika Paudel Sitaula

9) Nepal Liaison Committee

The primary function of this Committee is to liaise and coordinate ASNEng with various organizations and government agencies of Nepal to enhance mutual cooperation and relation. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Chair: Sagar Onta, P.E. (TN)

E-mail: onta.sagar@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Open

10) Liaison Committee

The primary function of this Committee is to create liaison between ASNEng with various other professional and social organizations and associations based in the USA and abroad not including Nepal. The Committee has the following working member(s):

Chair: Upendra Karna, D. Eng., P.E. (NJ)

E-mail: ukarna@usengr.com

Vice Chair: Naveen Dutta (CO)

E-mail: ndutta@avaya.com

11) Nomination and Election Committee

The primary function of this Committee is to prepare a slate of candidates for Board of Directors and Officers of the ASNEng Society. The working members are yet to be determined for this Committee.

ASNEng Membership Drive

The Membership Year of the ASNEng Society is from January 1st to December 31st of each year. All the prospective members are requested to join the Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) to make it better, stronger and more importantly to share our knowledge with the ASNEng members and with our counterparts living in Nepal and abroad. The online membership application can be found and downloaded at

<http://www.asnengr.org/Membership.html>

Current members can renew their membership at <http://www.asnengr.org/Membership/MembershipRenewal.php>. Please consider encouraging your colleagues and friends to join the Society as a member as well. If you wish to be only on the Society's mailing list at this time and get update over time, we welcome you to do so as well. To be included in the Society's mailing list, please submit your contact information via the "Contact Us" page on the Society's website at <http://www.asnengr.org/contact.html>.

Awards and Recognition

ASNEng would like to congratulate the following members of the Society for their professional recognition and distinctions in the following professional organization and institutions:

Dr. Upendra L. Karna, Member of ASNEng Board of Directors and Executive Committee served as the President of New Jersey State Section of American Society of Civil Engineers during October 2009-September 2010. This year he is serving on the position of the Past President of the ASCE Section.

Dr. Rajendra Shrestha, Vice president of ASNEng, has been serving on the Editorial Committee of the Geophysical Society of Houston since January 2010.

Dr. Binod Tiwari, former member of the ASNEng Board of Directors and Member at-large of the Executive Committee was awarded with Distinguished Engineering Educator Award from the Orange County branch of the American Society of Civil Engineering and the Outstanding Engineering Educator Award from the Orange County Engineering Council. The honors were presented Feb. 18 and 20, 2010, respectively.

Dr. Ramesh B. Malla, President of ASNEng served as the Technical Chair of the prestigious and premier international conference - 51st AIAA/ASME/ASCE/AHS/ASC Structures, Structural Dynamics and Materials (SDM) Conference, held in Orlando, FL during April 12-15, 2010. The conference was attended by more than 700 individuals worldwide.

Dr. Malla also served as the Chair of the Symposium on Intelligent Sensors and Actuators at another very prominent and prestigious conference – 12th ASCE Aerospace Division International Conference on Engineering, Science, Construction and Operations in Challenging Environments (Earth & Space 2010) held in Honolulu, HI during March 14-17, 2010. The conference was attend by more than 300 participants. He also served as one of the two co-editors of the Conference's 3,890-page long proceedings published by American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

2nd ASNEng Annual Conference and General Meeting Held in Oakland, CA ; July 02-04, 2009

The second annual American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) conference was held at Oakland Convention Center, Oakland, California over the July 4th weekend of 2009 in conjunction with the Association of Nepalese in Americas (ANA) Convention. The theme of this conference was “Engineering and Science for Sustainable Development of the Society”. It provided a common venue for the engineers, scientists, and technical professionals to discuss and brainstorm a collaborative effort for further research and development. In addition to the general membership/BOD meeting, the conference included technical sessions and a panel discussion.



Some attendees at the ASNEng Annual Conference in Oakland, CA; July 03-04, 2009.

The conference began on Thursday July 2nd with Dr. Ramesh B. Malla, president of the ASNEng, giving an introductory presentation to the ANA General Assembly. The 2nd day, Friday July 3rd, started with Dr. Ramesh B. Malla welcoming the attendees and providing a brief history of ASNEng. Following the welcome message, the session chairs Dr. Ramesh Malla and Mr. Pradeep Khanal started the first technical session. The first technical session had a total of four presentations on a variety of interesting subject matters such as: “*Preparation of Landslide Potential Map of a Road Sector with Deterministic Analysis*” by Dr. Binod Tiwari on behalf of Dinesh Shrestha, California State University, Fullerton, CA; “*Earthquake Retrofitting of School Projects in Nepal*” by Kanhaiya Kayastha, La Habra, CA; “*Prospects of Telemedicine/Tele-ophthalmology to prevent cataracts in Nepal*” by Amod Pokhrel, University of California Berkeley, CA; and “*Construction Practice in the USA –*

difference with the practice in Nepal” by Dol Raj Adhikari, Department of Transportation, Sacramento, CA.

The 2nd day ended with a panel discussion on “*Knowledge Sharing for Career Advancement*” moderated by Dr. Binod Tiwari and Dr. Ambika Adhikari. The panelists were Dr. Ramesh B. Malla, Dr Rajendra K. Shrestha, Mr. Raja Upadhaya, Mr. Dol Raj Adhikari, and Mr. Pradeep Khanal. The panelist first gave a brief background on themselves and then took various angles of the subject matter. Dr. Malla talked about the academic side, Dr. Shrestha emphasized the value that community involvement will add to job hunting and career advancement, Mr. Upadhaya shared about his experience about his career development in the field of mining. Mr Adhikari cited his perspective on working in Nepal and the challenges associated with it, and Mr Khanal talked about the importance of right knowledge on career planning from a youth’s perspective

The 3rd day, Saturday July 4th, started with the second technical session ran by the session chairs Dr. Ramesh B. Malla and Dr. Rajendra K. Shrestha . There were four presentations on diverse topics such as the following: “*Design Practice for Slope Stabilization Works – state of The Art Practice and Future Improvement*” by Dr. Binod Tiwari, California State University, Fullerton, CA; “*Bridge design and construction Practice in the US*” by Mr. Prem Rimal, California Department of Transportation, CA; “*How the Compressibility and Plasticity of Soil Changes with Mineralogical Composition*” by Mr. Ishwar Dhungana, California State University, Fullerton, CA; and “*Advanced Composites in Today’s Context*” by Dr. Pranav Dhoj Shah, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA.



Dr. Ramesh B. Malla (Right) and Dr. Rajendra Shrestha (Left) co-chairing a technical session during the conference.

The 3rd and final technical session was started by Dr. Pranav Dhoj Shah and Mr. Jagannath Ghimire

chairing the session. The four presentations were as follows: “*Petroleum Engineering in the Oil and Gas Industry*” by Dr. Rajendra K. Shrestha, ConocoPhillips, Houston, TX; “*Comments on Building Construction Practice in Nepal in View of Earthquake Safety*” by Mr. Suresh Acharya, Concord, CA; “*Towards Developing Indicators for Kathmandu*” by Dr. Ambika Adhikari, Arizona State University, AZ; and “*Structural Analysis of Percussive Penetrometer System for Lunar Exploration*” by Dr. Ramesh B. Malla, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

The annual ASNEng general membership/BOD meeting was held in the final stage of the conference. The conference adjourned with closing remarks from Dr. Ramesh B. Malla, President of ASNEng.

More information on the Conference including press release, conference full program, and proceedings with abstracts can be found on the Society’s website <http://www.ASNEng.org>

Highlights of Other Conference and Presentation Activities in July 2009 - June 2010

ASNEng Organizes Nepali Mela, August 29, 2009

ASNEng – Chicago team organized a *Nepali Mela*, the first of its kind, in Chicago on August 29, 2009.

Organized with the main objective of promoting the Society, the *Mela* helped not only to bring all Nepalese from Chicago-land area but also brought forth the rich Nepalese culture and tradition. Approximately 300 people from greater Chicago attended the event.

NASeA-ANMA-NCNC Joint Convention on September 5, 2009

ASNEng participated in a special membership meeting held at the NASeA-ANMA-NCNC joint convention held in Raleigh, North Carolina on September 5-6, 2009. Society’s special meeting also took place during this opportunity.

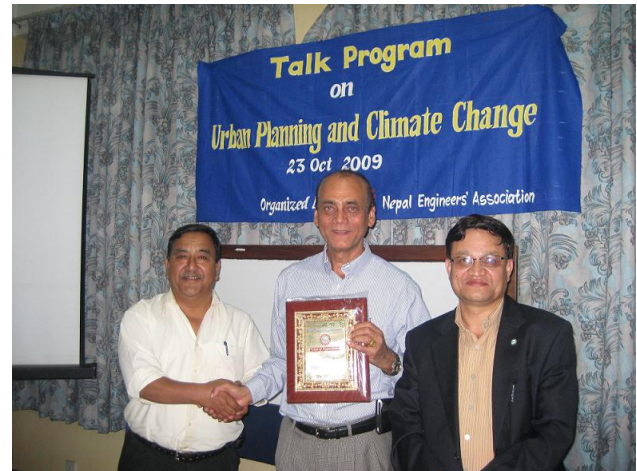
Seminar on Transfer of Knowledge between North America and Nepal, October 12, 2009

As a part of a seminar on the transfer of knowledge between North America and Nepal held in Kathmandu on October 12, 2009, ASNEng member and chair of the Technical Committee Dr. Ambika Adhikari did a presentation on the works of ASNEng. The seminar was

held at the Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, jointly organized by IOE, NAC and NRN Canada. Other North American presenters also talked about issues related to knowledge transfer.

Presentation on Urban Planning for Climate Change, October 23, 2009

On October 23, 2009, ASNEng member and chair of the Technical Committee Dr. Ambika Adhikari presented a paper on “Urban Planning for Climate Change” at the Nepal Engineers Association (NEA) office in Lalitpur. The talk was well attended and received. Dr. Adhikari requested the NEA to work collaboratively with ASNEng on items of mutual interests and for the benefit of public at large. A wide support was perceived from NEA on collaborative effort towards to this subject. NEA seeks support from ASNEng to open a chapter office in North America, as they have already done so in other parts of the world.



Dr. Ambika Adhikari (middle) with Nepal Engineers Association individuals.

Distribution of Refurbished Personal Computers in the Greater Chicago Area (September 2009 – May 2010)

Under the leadership and initiative of Mr. Prabhakant Das and help from other members in the Greater Chicago area, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) obtained about 40 used Personal Computers (PCs) from Siemens Medical Systems, Hoffman Estates, IL in

September 2009. The CPU speed of these computers ranged anywhere from 1GHz to 2.8 GHz with RAM from 256 MB to 2 GB. Siemens policy required that the hard drives could not be included in any donated computers. A number of small parts such as CPU fans or floppy drives were also missing or were not functioning on these computers.

Many ASNEng members and others community members supported this effort by donating money or by providing suitable parts. The ASNEng members and friends in the Greater Chicago area procured necessary parts, including the Operating Systems & applications and fixed these computers on a voluntary basis and distributed them to Nepalese students, friends of Nepal, or anyone else who could benefit from this offer. The volunteers also provided free support over the phone and on-site, as required, depending upon the complexity of the reported problems. Overall, we were able to refurbish about 25 computers. The rest of the computers and parts were donated for recycling. Siemens had also provided a few CRT monitors along with those computers. However due to the lack of demand for these monitors, the volunteers also decided to recycle them. The refurbishing and distribution of these computers took place between Sept. 2009 and May 2010.

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IRS Tax Exempt Application and Approval

Officers of the American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) initiated work in preparing and gathering needed information and documents to apply for the U.S. Federal Tax Exempt Status in July 2008 and filed an application for this purpose with the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) with the completed IRS Form 1023, an application fee of \$750.00, and necessary supporting documents on May 22, 2009 (post marked). The ASNEng team for this filing and further action included Ms. Pratibha C. Phuyal (then Treasurer), Dr. Ramesh B. Malla (President), Dr. Rajendra K. Shrestha (Vice President), Mr. Jagannath Ghimire (General Secretary) and Mr. Prakash Khanal (then Joint Secretary). After filing the application, the team continued to work hard

with unwavering dedication for additional 13 months providing six responses to the IRS in timely basis and dealing with exorbitant amount of paper work. ASNEng was able to secure the Tax Exempt Status according to Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Internal Revenue Code, effective June 22, 2010. ASNEng expresses its sincere thanks to Mr. Laxman Pradhan, CPA from Maryland and Mr. Mukesh Singh, Attorney-at-Law from Ohio for their valuable suggestions/advice in this process. This tax exempt status waives ASNEng from paying the State Sales Tax as well as allows the donors to the Society for charitable purposes to take a federal tax deduction, according to the current IRS rules.

ASNEng Launches a Joint Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal in Collaboration with ANMF and CAN-USA on March 31, 2010

The devastation that struck Haiti in January 2010 highlights the horrific consequences of a major earthquake on a developing nation, especially one with limited resources, inadequate planning, and dense population centers. Nepal lies in one of the most seismically active regions in the world. Approximately every 75 years, Kathmandu is impacted by an earthquake of magnitude 8.0. A strong scale earthquake is due to strike Nepal anytime.

The destruction witnessed in the densely populated Haiti's capital city of Port- au- Prince is likely to occur in Kathmandu. The areas of infrastructure (building, bridges, roads, water supply, etc.), transportation systems, telecommunication networks, medical and other essential services could be quickly overwhelmed. Kathmandu, therefore, requires unprecedented preparedness to endure the burden of widespread structural destruction and mass casualties resulting from an earthquake. Being a land locked country with a single and small-sized international airport, Nepal will likely suffer greater human casualties than Haiti. Geohazards International, a nonprofit organization that assess earthquake hazards, currently ranks Kathmandu at the highest risk for fatalities than any other city in the world.

An in-depth review and analysis of various relief efforts undertaken in response to past earthquake disasters worldwide can provide valuable lessons in identifying areas of strength as well as areas for further improvement

in Nepal's disaster preparations. The Nepali diaspora, having broad expertise and a sincere concern for Nepal, is in a position to provide expert advice and relevant resources to aid Nepal in disaster preparedness. By collaborating with concerned authorities in Nepal on targeted preparation efforts, the Nepali diaspora can have a meaningful impact in saving lives and properties in such disasters.

With the above in mind, an initiative, jointly led by the America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), the American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng), and the Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA), was launched on March 31, 2010. The immediate objective of the initiative is to prepare a Position/Strategy document that will serve as a basis for a general strategy to investigate areas needing improvement in Nepal's earthquake preparedness and to identify interested and willing local partners to assist in implementing targeted solutions. The document will encompass following broad and critical principal areas:

- Various infrastructure systems safety and resilience (Engineering, analysis, design, construction, and maintenance)
- Telecommunication robustness including disaster telecommunication networks
- Medical preparedness
- Short and long term relief operations

To achieve the above goals, a broader committee has been formed with membership from the lead organizations (ASNEng, CAN-USA, and ANMF), supporting and concerned organizations from the U.S. and Nepal, including government and non-governmental agencies, professional engineering, medical and scientific organizations; academic institutions and private industry. A focused group of people from each 3 lead organizations (ASNEng, ANMF, and CAN-USA) are serving on the Steering Committee. In addition to this, each lead organization has its own Subcommittee on the earthquake preparedness. These committees are reviewing and gathering information on past and present efforts and propose specific mechanisms by which the broader Nepali diaspora may efficiently respond in the event of an earthquake disaster in Nepal, including but not limited to the following specific areas:

- Pre- and post- event establishing relationships with key rescue and relief organizations
- Pre- and post- event establishing information sharing networks amongst diaspora
- Optimal routing to Nepal of critical individuals, information, and resources
- Pre-and post- identifying organizations having emergency funds targeting Nepal

- Pre- and post- event identifying means for reliably sending donations
- Media relations and public safety awareness program

It is envisioned that this joint initiative will support and enhance any other past or present efforts in this topic and contribute to pave way for new incentives in this area in the future.

Lead Organizations and their Presidents at the time of Launching of this Initiative: American Society of Nepalese Engineers/www.ASNEng.org (President: Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.); America Nepal Medical Foundation/ www.ANMF.net (President: Sunil Sharma, M.D.); Computer Association of Nepal-U.S.A. (CAN-USA)/ www.CAN-USA.org (then President : Bineet Sharma)

Supporting Organizations in the U.S. (as of now):

National/Regional Level: Association of Nepalis in Americas (ANA); Association of Nepalese in Mid-West America (ANMA); Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASeA); and Non-Resident Nepali - Coordination Council (NRN-NCC) of USA.

Local Level: America-Nepal Friendship Society, Inc., New York; America- Nepal Society of California, Inc.; Baltimore Association of Nepalese in America ; Chicago Nepali Friendship Society; Friends of Nepal-Los Angeles Friends of Nepal-New Jersey; Greater Boston Nepali Nepal Center of North Carolina; Nepalese Association of Houston; Nepalese Society Texas; Nepali Association of Oregon; and Rocky Mountain Friends of Nepal

Since the launching of the Joint ANMF/ASNEng/ CAN-USA Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal, ASNEng has played the lead role in organizing sessions and panel discussions at various conferences on this subject matter. Some of these are described in this Newsletter. Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. President of ASNEng has taken lead role in coordinating the regular meetings of the Joint Committee and activities of the committee to prepare the position/strategy paper.

Please visit www.ASNEng.org for more details and to learn about various activities that the joint committee is undertaking since the launching of the initiative on March 31, 2010.

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ANMF/ASNEng/CAN-USA Panel Discussion Session on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal on May 28, 2010 at the 4th NRN Regional Conference

A joint panel discussion on “Earthquake Disaster Preparedness in Nepal” was organized by ANMF/ASNEng/CAN-USA in Houston, TX on May 28, 2010 in the 4th NRN Regional Conference. The panel was chaired by Dr. Prahlad Pant and moderated by Dr. Bishnu Phuyal.

The Chair, Dr. Pant, opened the discussion emphasizing the need for urgent attention to disaster preparedness in Nepal. The moderator, Dr. Phuyal highlighted how the cooperation of the three organizations had already started to make positive impact leading to a conference with amazing participation. He then invited the panelists to share their perspectives on disaster preparedness.

The first panelist Dr. Gaury Adhikary (ANMF) showcased how ANMF had participated in numerous healthcare services in Nepal and had a strong foothold in the field. He expressed his organization’s interest and ability to quickly mobilize medical personnel and medical assistance in case the disaster occurred.

The second panelist Dr. Rajendra Shrestha (V.P., ASNEng) agreed with the notion of better use of resources and higher impact through cooperation between these three organizations. Dr. Shrestha graphically explained how the collision of the Indian and Eurasian lithospheric plates caused the evolution of the Himalayas and Tibet thereby putting Nepal in a high risk of major earthquakes. He also outlined the steps that need to be taken as part of the plan for the earthquake preparedness/mitigation and relief/recovery operations.

Prabudhda Dahal (V.P., CAN-USA) explained the possibility of complete failure of communication and transportation infrastructure during an earthquake and stressed on the need for alternate communication mediums such as walkie-talkie or satellite phones to build a back-up communication system. He also underscored the need for effective use of technologies such as Geographic Information System (GIS) before, during and after a major disaster.

Suman R. Timsina (President, NRN NCC of USA)

underscored the need for cooperation between all fellow Nepalese living around the globe and assured to work towards achieving such cooperation through NRN’s programs and networks.



Panelists Dr. Gaury Adhikary, Dr. Rajendra Shrestha and Mr. Prabudhda Dahal (from left to right).

The session was highly interactive and heavily participated by inquisitive attendees who not only listened and questioned the panelist, but also provided suggestions. Some suggestions from the participants are highlighted as follows:

1. To build a coalition and partner with other agencies for Building Code enforcement in Nepal.
2. To establish a contingency fund.
3. To develop comprehensive plan that will bring government and local agencies such as Mahanagarपालिका together with the aid of non-Profit organizations.
4. To approach the satellite phone companies to obtain the phone sets for use during the disaster.

(Reported by Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D.)

Joint ASNEng and CAN-USA Conference in Boston, MA; July 03-04, 2010

The two-day event started around noon on July 3rd with opening remarks from Dr. Ramesh Malla, president of ASNEng. Following Dr. Malla’s welcome address was the beginning of the Technical Session I titled “Panel Discussion on Earthquake Disaster Preparedness in Nepal” chaired by Dr. Pramod Dhakal. The panelists Dr. Ramesh Malla and Kanhaiya Kayastha presented on “On Preparing Nepal’s Infrastructures for Earthquake Events,” then Mr. Prabudhda Dahal spoke on “Communications in Disaster Preparedness” and finally Mr. Rajan Pant talked about “Cooperation for Disaster Preparedness: A Case for Nepal”. The day ended with an open forum (Technical

Session II) chaired by Dr. Ramesh Malla.

On Day 2, Mr. Upendra Karna chaired Technical Session III titled "Clean Technology" in which the following articles were presented:

1. "Energy Generation using Reciprocating Small Scale Hydropower System" by Ramesh B. Malla, Binu Shrestha; and Amvrossios C. Bagtzoglou, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2. "Stoves, Health and Technologies" (Webinar) by Amod Pokhrel, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, CA
3. "High altitude Wireless networks in Himalayan Region" by Kishor Panth, Computer Association of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal
4. "Got Sun? Get Electricity!- Gham Power's Solar PV Systems End Load-Shedding for Homes and Businesses Alike"(Webinar) by Sandeep Giri, Gham Power (Solar Company), Kathmandu, Nepal

After a Joint Professional Networking Event, Dr. Ramesh Malla and Mr Kishor Panth chaired Technical Session IV titled "General Engineering & Scientific Topics" in which the following articles were presented:

1. "Science and Education for a Sustainable World" by Pramod Dhakal, Ph.D., Canada Foundation for Nepal, Ottawa, Canada
2. "Meta-Analysis on Gene Expression Micro-array data" by Pujan Joshi, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
3. "Search and Rescue using Cell Phones and Mobile Base Station" by Bishal Thapa, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
4. "Bridge Foundation Design in Tidal Waterway" by Upendra Karna, D. Eng, P.E., U&S Engineers, P.C., Lambertville, NJ

The two day event ended with Annual ASNEng General Membership Meeting and Closing remarks.

2nd Slate of ASNEng Officers and Board of Directors Election Results (July 04, 2010)

Under the ASNEng Nomination/Election Committee, (Dr. Prahlad D. Pant (Chair), Mr. Binod Dhungel, Dr. Pukar Malla, Mr. Binay Sharma, and Mr. Janak Thapa) the election of the Board of Directors (Officers and Society Directors) of the ASNEng was successfully completed and announced on July 4th 2010 in Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA at the Annual Conference and General Membership Meeting of the Society. We would like to

congratulate all elected Officers and Society Directors and wish them great success during their two year term (2010-2012). The names of the elected Officers and At-Large Members of the Board of Directors of ASNEng are as below:

Officers :

- 1) **President:** Ramesh B Malla, Ph.D., Storrs, CT
- 2) **Vice President:** Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D. Houston, TX
- 3) **General Secretary:** Jagannath Ghimire, P.E., Baltimore, MD
- 4) **Joint Secretary:** Pradeep Khanal, Sunnyvale, CA
- 5) **Information Secretary:** Pujan Joshi, Storrs, CT
- 6) **Treasurer:** Smarika Paudel Sitaula, Chicago, IL

Society Directors:

- 1) Dabit Acharya, Cleveland, OH
- 2) Kul Mani Acharya, Towson, MD
- 3) Ambika P. Adhikari, Dr. Des., AICP, Scottsdale, AZ
- 4) Rajesh Bajracharya, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 5) Rishi Baral, P.E., Woodbridge, VA
- 6) Yubaraj Budhathoki, P.E., McLean, VA
- 7) Komal Dutta, Streamwood, IL
- 8) Sanjaya Gajurel, Ph.D., Cleveland, OH
- 9) Samana Ghimire, Sunnyvale, CA
- 10) Bimal Karki, P.E., Greenville, SC
- 11) Pradeep Karna, Tuscon, AZ
- 12) Upendra Karna, D.Eng.,PE, Lawrenceville, NJ
- 13) Kanhaiya Kayastha, S.E., P.E., La Habra, CA
- 14) Shyam KC, Ph.D., Washington, D.C.
- 15) Rajendra Khatiwada, Georgetown, KY
- 16) Prakash Khanal, Baltimore, MD
- 17) Naresh Koirala, P.E., N. Vancouver BC, Canada
- 18) Prakash B Malla, Ph.D., Dublin, GA
- 19) Sagar Onta, P.E., Canada
- 20) Bishnu Phuyal, Ph.D., Chicago, IL
- 21) Pratibha C. Phuyal , Glendale Heights., IL
- 22) Pranav D. Shah, Ph.D., Stanford, CA
- 23) Manish Shakya, Greenville, SC
- 24) Ankur Sharma, Rolling Meadows, IL
- 25) Shyam Sharma, Ph.D., P.E., Medford, OR
- 26) Prakash Shrestha, P.E., San Antonio, TX
- 27) Rajendra Shrestha, P.E., Orlando, FL

Thank You: 2008-2010 Officers and Members of the Board of Directors

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the first slate officers and members of the Board of Directors serving 2008-2010 terms. Thank you for such dedication & hard work and paving the path for us ahead.

Executive Committee:

President: Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. (CT)
Vice President: Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D. (TX)
General Secretary: Jagannath Ghimire, P.E. (MD)
Joint Secretary: Prakash Khanal (MD)
Information Secretary: Komal Dutta (IL)
Treasurer: Pratibha C. Phuyal (IL)
Members-at-Large:
Rajesh Bajracharya (ON, Canada)
Himal Karmacharya (MA)
Upendra Karna, D. Eng., P.E. (NJ)
Pradhuma B. Shrestha, P.E. (TX)
Pradeep Khanal (CA)

Board of Directors:

Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. (CT) - Chair
Devendra M. Amatya, Ph.D., P.E. (SC)
Rajendra Bajracharya, Ph.D. P.L.S. (ID)
Rajesh Bajracharya (ONT, Canada)
Subodh Bhandari, Ph.D. (CA)
Rishi Bhattarai, P.E. (TX)
Yubaraj Budhathoki, P.E. (VA)
Komal Dutta (IL)
Naveen Dutta (CO)
Bimal Devkota, P.E. (MD)
Laxman M. Devkota, Ph.D., P.E. (AZ)
Jagannath Ghimire (MD)
Sukh Gurung, Ph.D. (NY)
Upendra L. Joshi, P.E. (CA)
Bimal Karki, P.E. (SC)
Himal Karmacharya (MA)
Pradeep Karna (AZ)
Upendra Karna, D. Eng., P.E. (NJ)
Prakash Khanal (SC)
Raju Kharel (GA)
Prakash B. Malla, Ph.D. (GA)
Usha Neupane (WI)
Sushil Poudyal (ONT, Canada)
Bishnu Phuyal, Ph.D. (IL)
Pratibha Phuyal (IL)
Jambala Ruit, P.E. (PA)
Gopal Shah (Kathmandu, Nepal)
Manish Shakya (SC)
Shyam L. Sharma, Ph.D. (OR)
Pradhuma Shrestha, P.E. (TX)
Pramen Shrestha, Ph.D., P.E. (NV)
Rajendra Shrestha, P.E. (FL)
Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D. (TX)
Khagendra Thapa, Ph.D. (MI)
Binod Tiwari, Ph.D. (CA)
Upendra Wagley, P.E. (NY)

Nepali Mela in Chicago held on August 21, 2010

Nepali American Center (NAC) organized the second annual Nepali Mela (Fair) at Harms Wood Picnic Area in Skokie, a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. The Mela was full of activities, entertainment, food and vendor stalls. An estimated 350 individuals from the Chicago and nearby region attended the Mela.

The NAC coordinated free community services such as Medical Booth (free health consultation) and Resume Workshop. Other activities included an Art Showcase and Children's Art Drawing Talent Show. Many attendees received health advice and had their blood pressure checked at the Medical Booth. Groups of working professionals and educators reviewed resumes of students and community members who were looking for their career advancement. Various art works on "Nepali American Culture and Heritage" theme were showcased.

The live entertainment was one of the major attractions at the Mela. The performance series was opened with American and Nepali national anthems. It was then followed by many varieties of music - ranging from the Nepali Folk tunes to the contemporary Rock and Rolls performed by individual artists and the local Nepali Chi-Town Band. Similarly, the Mela committee also organized different fun activities and games like soccer, volley ball, badminton, bean bag and the Dashain Swing. Authentic Nepali food was served.

All of these activities and overall Mela were made possible by the enthusiastic and energetic participation of community members which numbered roughly at 50 volunteers, and by the generous financial support from the Mela Sponsors – Non Resident Nepali Association (NRN), Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA), American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng), Adamjee Insurance, Cumin, Himalayan Restaurant and Bar, Key Performance Idea, Macy's, Mount Everest Restaurant and Travel House Nepal.

The NAC envisions a well managed physical space for its members, their groups and organizations, to organize more community events like Nepali Mela. Its mission is "to serve Nepali American communities by founding a self-sustaining physical facility."

Visit www.NepaliAmericanCenter.org today to find out how you can contribute, support and donate to the mission of NAC, and learn more about its initiatives.

(Reported by Bishnu Phuyal, Ph.D., Komal Dutta, and Pratibha Phuyal)

Joint ANMF/ASNEng/CAN-USA Session on Earthquake Disaster Preparedness in Nepal at ANMA/NASeA Convention on September 05, 2010

A joint session of America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) on “*Earthquake Disaster Preparedness in Nepal*” was held at the ANMA/NASeA Convention in Lexington, Kentucky on September 05, 2010. This session was attended by about 25 people. Dr. Prakash B. Malla, Member of the ASNEng Board of Directors, opened the session with welcoming remarks and an overview of the session. The importance and timeliness of discussion on this issue was underscored because of the imminence of an earthquake of 8 or greater magnitude (in the Richter scale) in Nepal.

On behalf of ASNEng President Dr. Ramesh B. Malla, Dr. Bishnu Phuyal, Member of the ASNEng Board of Directors, provided a quick update on the activities of the American Society of Nepalese Engineers. These included a brief history of the society, objectives, current officers and BOD, various committees, and ongoing projects and activities including joint efforts with other associations. He also distributed the membership forms and encouraged the engineers, scientists and technical professionals to join the society as members.

Dr. Prakash Malla then gave the ASNEng presentation on “*Necessity of Earthquake Preparedness in Nepal.*” This presentation was prepared by ASNEng Vice President Dr. Rajendra K. Shrestha. This presentation highlighted the likelihood of an earthquake of mega magnitude (8.0 or higher in Richter scale) occurring in Nepal based on the history of earthquakes and geology of Nepal. The last earthquake of 8.4 magnitude occurred in 1934 and the Earthquake of such a magnitude is expected to occur about every 75 years. Also, Nepal is sitting on an area of high micro-seismic activities. In 2010, two earthquakes occurred in the Americas back to back: one in Haiti and another one in Chile. Although the earthquake that hit Haiti was of a smaller magnitude, Haiti experienced a much greater degree of deaths and destructions. This can simply be attributed to the facts that Haiti was not prepared for such a disaster. Nepal is not necessarily in any better situation than Haiti. This presentation also provided recommendations for disaster preparedness and recovery plan such as meetings, rallies,

exhibitions, web sites, mobile camps, mock drills, first aid & CPR procedures training, food, medical care, and shelter, emergency relief centers, trauma centers and restoration of infrastructure, earthquake design code development for infrastructure, communication, and water supplies.

Dr. Bishnu Phuyal delivered the CAN-USA presentation on “*Elephants Will Shake Head, Catfish Will Move, Gods Will Walk With Heavy Foot, Are We Ready?*” The presentation was prepared by CAN-USA Vice President Prabudhda Dahal. This presentation highlighted two aspects of communications that would be very critical dealing with the disaster (before, during and after): telecommunications and geographic information. Telecommunication networks is the Central Nervous System of any search and rescue or resupply operation and save lives by allowing the first responders to be quickly and optimally deployed and survivors to inform rescuers of their location. While the exact state of Nepal’s disaster telecommunication networks is not known, it can be assumed that they are relatively rudimentary at best. The devastation that may occur in Nepal requires the unified responsible efforts across multiple disciplines, and everyone must be involved. Again, the key questions that need to be addressed during the earthquake disaster preparedness are: How do we send resources and expertise, who do we offer them to, what can us do right now to prepare and what should one do to help one’s family prepare?

Dr. Bhargab Dixit gave the ANMF presentation on “*Promoting the Advancement of Healthcare in Nepal.*” He began with providing an update on the ANMF mission, activities and current projects. He then moved on to emphasizing the need to act and get ready as soon possible and come up with a plan before the earthquake would strike in Nepal. His suggestions and discussion included creating a closer dialogue with expert organizations in the private and public sector that specialize in disaster relief in Nepal and mobilizing manpower from all levels of the health care delivery from nurses, health assistants to physicians, to provide immediate first aid and trauma relief. The biggest asset in such endeavor is the local manpower. Forming a database of local and foreign manpower should be a high priority and ANMF can work along this line. Fund raising mechanism for immediate needs as well as for long term rehabilitation and treatment of the injured, prevention of infection and epidemics, and sustainable nutrition supply are essential. An example of this would be to set up an online fund raising link so that this can be coordinated with different Nepalese organizations here in the Americas and effectively monitor the fund transfers to the legitimate organizations in Nepal so that money is

channeled to the right places and right people.

The time constraint on the session precluded a lot of follow-up discussions. There were a couple of questions related to how they could prepare the family members back home for such disasters. Overall, the session was very effective in arousing interests and a sense of urgency in the attendees as to the imminence of an earthquake in Nepal and the disasters that may follow. The attendees were requested to send their comments and suggestions to the presenters via email.

(Reported by: Prakash B. Malla, Ph.D. and Bishnu Phuyal, Ph.D.)

Nepali Engineers Night at Greater Washington D.C. on November 20, 2010

The enthusiastic Nepali Engineers in association with American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) organized a Social Gathering and Entertainment Night of Nepali Engineers and their families residing in the Greater Washington, DC, on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department Hall located at 4911 Prince George's Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705. The objective of this night/program was to provide a forum for Engineers for socialization and networking.



Organizers of the Program with Nepali Ambassador Dr. Shankar Sharma (7th from left) and ASNEngr President Dr. Ramesh B. Malla (6th from left).

It was the first formal gathering of Nepali engineers in this area where the Ambassador of Nepal, Dr. Shankar P. Sharma, the President of American Society of Nepalese Engineers, Dr. Ramesh B. Malla and other renowned professionals were present. During the program, the

Ambassador acknowledged that this sort of program is essential for the Nepali professionals and it should be continued in upcoming years. Dr. Malla, thanked the Organizing Committee for working hard to bring this program to success. Mr. Bimal Devkota, Mr. Rishi Baral and Mr. Shashi Dahal gave a brief speech during the program. The formal part of the program was hosted by Mr. Raj K. Tamang.

Other highlights of the night were: delicious Nepali dinner and cultural program conducted by Shashi Dahal. There were also performances from children of the Nepali Engineers. Mr. Thakur Dhakal, P.E. presented an emotional Nepali dance. D.J anchored by Thakur Dhakal was another part where almost everyone seemed eager to dance.



Ambassador Dr. Shankar Sharma (right) presenting certificate of appreciation to one of the cultural program performers on behalf of ASNEngr.



Nepali folk dance scene from the after dinner cultural program.



A scene from the Greater Washington D.C. Nepali Engineers' Night.

At the end, on behalf of ASNEng, Dr. Malla, President of the Society presented Certificates of Appreciation to cultural program participants and the Organizing Committee Members. R2Intergrated, Rakesh Kumar, the Realtor and Basu Satyal, the Realtor sponsored this event. The following organizing members put a lot of effort and hard work to make the event successful:

Mr. Deependra Pokharel, Mr. Jagannath Ghimire, Mr. Kulmani Acharya, Mr. Prakash Khanal, Mr. Raj K Tamang, Mr. Rishi Baral, Mr. Santosh Dhakal, Mr. Shalik Wagle, Mr. Shashi Dahal, Mr. Thakur Dhakal, Mr. Yubaraj Budhathoki

(Reported by: Jagannath Ghimire, P.E., General Secretary of ASNEng)

Collaboration in Nepal

During his visit to Nepal, on December 17, 2010, President of ASNEng, Dr. Ramesh B. Malla met in person several key individuals including the State Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology (Honorable Mr. Indra Dhungel); Secretary (Prakash C. Adhikari, Ph.D.), Academician (Mr. Rishi Shah) and Chief of Planning and Evaluation Division (Mr. Shekhar Shah) of the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology; and Dean (Prof. Bharat Pahari, Ph.D.) and Assistant Dean (Prof. Timila Yami Thapa) of Institute of Engineering / Pulchowk Campus. Dr. Malla gave them a brief introduction of ASNEng and talked about its objectives and various activities it is undertaking currently and planning to undertake in the future. They discussed various possible collaborative educational and research opportunities. Dr. Malla proposed two possible near term possible collaboration, one organizing a joint conference

with NAST and IOE, and the other ASNEng helping Nepal to prepare building code with earthquake consideration. Both ideas were warmly and enthusiastically accepted as a very good starting point for a meaningful collaboration.

ASNEng Website: A New Look

ASNEng has recently completed a seamless transition of its website from Yahoo to Go Daddy Web Hosting Service Provider. The search for alternative provider was initiated when Yahoo was lacking the capability to host the web-pages redesigned by Young Minds. Among available Service Providers, Go Daddy was selected considering its cost effective solution to meet its web requirements.

The new website is backed by a robust Content Management System (CMS) which will significantly reduce administrative overheads. ASNEng has its own website/database committee comprising of administrators to maintain the website. The committee has well laid out plans to provide its users with many convenient features such as self-service member profile, membership renewal reminder email, and blogs/forums for open discussion amongst the members. Please visit the website <http://www.asnengr.org/> and send your feedback to webadmin@ASNEng.org.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI RELIEF FUND RAISING

On March 11, 2011, an unprecedented earthquake measuring 9.0 in the Richter scale hit Japan. It was followed by a 23-foot tsunami. Japan suffered tremendous loss of life and property damages. Governments from all over the world and many international non-profit organizations have been providing necessary help to the Japanese Government and its citizens. Similarly many other organizations and individuals have been participating in many different ways including collecting funds to assist the affected people. Many Nepalese organizations in the United States have also been raising funds for this purpose.

In consideration of this human tragedy, the American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) Executive Committee meeting held on March 13, 2011 decided to set up a 3-week fundraiser to show support and solidarity with the people of Japan. Many members of the society

all across the country listened to calls for support and sent their donations. Within two weeks of the initial appeal, the ASNEng was successful in collecting nearly 950 US dollars. Contributions were received via checks and PayPal account. This amount will soon be handed over to appropriate agencies on behalf of ASNEng.

ASNEng would sincerely like to thank all the donors for their generous contributions. Also, the society recognizes the time and effort put by several of its members to make this a first of this kind of fund raising effort successful. The society would like to thank everyone involved.

Capacity Building in Nepal's Development hosted by NRN National Co-ordination Council of USA on April 10, 2011 at Springfield, VA

The program was a one day event with three parts. The first part was a series of talks on Professional Networking and Capacity Building and Opportunities and Challenges to Investors and Entrepreneurs. Three high level officials shared few words in the 2nd part and the program ended with Q&A. After the warm welcome from Ram C. Kharel, the following presenters talked about the organizations/societies that they were affiliated with:

- Engineering Diaspora in Capacity Building by Jagannath Ghimire, PE, General Secretary of ASNEng
- CAN USA by Mr. Prabuddha Dahal, North Carolina
- Association of Nepalese Mathematicians in America by Mr. Deepak Basyal, New Mexico
- Recommendations for Capacity Building by Dr. Gyanu Lamichane, Maryland, Mr. Bibhav Acharya, Nyaya Health, Connecticut
- America Nepal Medical Foundation by Dr. Binod K. Shah, NY
- Role of NRN Association in Promoting Nepal's Trade in US by Mr. Prahlad KC, MA
- Challenges to Investors by Mr. Ratan K. Jha, TX
- Nepal-US Tax Treaty: Discouragement to Entrepreneurs by Mr. Anjan K. Shrestha, TX

After the presentations, Mr. Mitul Desai Senior Advisor to Assistant Secretary Mr. Robert O. Blake on Diaspora Issue, His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Scott H. DeLisi Ambassador of US to Nepal, and His Excellency

Ambassador Dr. Shankar P. Sharma Ambassador of Nepal to US all shared a few words. Mr. Kulamani Acharya, Mr. Rishi Baral, P.E. and Mr. Jagannath Ghimire, P.E. represented ASNEng in this program.

(Reported by: Jagannath Ghimire, P.E., General Secretary of ASNEng)

Nepalese Engineers of Greater Houston Meet in Houston, Texas on April 30, 2011 to Discuss on Hosting the Society's Annual Conference

Nepalese engineers of the Greater Houston Area had a successful and productive meeting, the first one of its kind, on April 30, 2011 in Kendall Neighborhood Library, 609 North Eldridge Parkway, Houston, Texas. The meeting was organized by Mr. Janak Thapa and Mr. Sanjay S. Basnet. Dr. Rajendra K. Shrestha, Vice President of American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng), participated in the meeting and served as the guest speaker.

The meeting started with the welcome speech by Mr. Janak Thapa by giving a brief introduction of ASNEng, following which he introduced Dr. Rajendra Shrestha and invited him to the podium. Dr. Shrestha gave a slide presentation with a succinct introduction of ASNEng, its purposes and objectives, activities, and accomplishments since its inception in September 2007. He also updated the participants about the American Society of Nepalese Engineers and Computer Association of Nepal-USA Joint Annual Conference scheduled in Houston on July 9 – 10, 2011, for which he had already laid the groundwork by reserving the conference hall and meeting room at University of Houston Clear Lake in coordination with the Nepalese Students Association of UHCL Clear Lake, blocking 50 rooms in Candlewood Suites Hotel at a walking distance from the venue, and making arrangement with Mr. Shesh Raj Sharma (part owner) of the Cuisine of India Restaurant for lunch, dinner and snacks. He also brought out other issues related to the conference such as airport pick-up, cultural program, and sponsorship, etc., which needed to be managed locally.

A lively question/answer session and open floor discussion related to the issues of the annual conference, forming the Greater Houston Chapter of ASNEng, and the ASNEng membership drive followed the presentation. A 15-member Steering Committee was set up to initiate the process of the local chapter

establishment. All the participants and their friends were invited to the ASNEng membership drive and were appealed to become its members by May 6, 2011. A 15-member Program Committee to volunteer and manage the upcoming annual conference was also formed. It was also decided to request ASNEng for a general letter for distribution to the potential sponsors and expedite the communication for the call of abstracts for the conference. The participants also thought it would be more convenient from the management viewpoint to schedule all the meetings and technical conferences on day-one, i.e., July 9, and free up the next day for rest and recreation / sight seeing, etc. All the participants very enthusiastically engaged in the floor discussion, overwhelmingly supported the annual conference in Houston, and made commitments to contribute to its success by all means possible.



Dr. Rajendra Shrestha addressing Houston Nepalese Engineers in the meeting.



Houston Nepalese Engineers in the meeting on April 30, 2011

Finally, the participants extended appreciations to Dr. Rajendra Shrestha for participating and updating, Mr. Janak Thapa and Mr. Sanjay S. Basnet for coordinating the meeting, setting up the Nepalese Engineers Houston listserve, thanked Mr. Thapa for providing soft drinks, and adjourned the meeting in a cheerful mood.
(Reported by: Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D.)

ANMF/ASNEng/CAN-USA Presentation on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster relief in Nepal at the NRN Tele- Conference on May 15, 2011

On behalf of the American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng), America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) and Computer Association of Nepal –USA (CAN-USA) Joint Committee, Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., President of ASNEng, gave presentation on the joint initiative launched on March 31, 2010 for Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal at the NRN teleconference held in the evening of May 15, 2011. Dr. Gaury Adhikary representing ANMF and Mr. Bineet Sharma from CAN-USA were also present at the session. Dr. Malla provided the objectives and goals of the Joint Initiative and described the various activities, including sessions organized on this subject matter in several conferences of Nepalese organizations (e.g., NRN, ANA, ANMA/NASeA, and ASNEng/CAN-USA conferences) in the U.S. and the work toward preparation of a position/strategy paper. After the presentation, there was a very fruitful and constructive discussion among the attendees at the teleconference. The teleconference meeting was attended by about 30 individuals from the U.S. and Canada.

ASNEng Board of Directors and Membership Meeting (July 2009- June 2011)

The Board of Directors of the American Society of Nepalese Engineers meets regularly mostly every 2-3 months and the General Membership meets once every year at the Society's Annual Conference. During the period of July 2009 through June 2011, the ASNEng Board met at the following dates: July 04, 2009; November 22, 2009, February 14, 2010, April 18, 2010, June 13, 2010; July 04, 2010 (Annual Conference); August 08, 2010; October 10, 2010; December 12, 2010; February 20, 2011; May 01, 2011. The General Membership meeting took place on July 04, 2009 and July 04, 2010. Except the meetings at the Annual Conferences, all other meetings took place via teleconference. Meeting agenda and minutes are available online at www.asnengr.org

2011 Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual Conference in Houston, TX; July 09-10, 2011

Announcement & Call for Abstracts

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) cordially invite you to participate in the 2011 Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Conference (4th ASNEng Annual Conference and Meeting and 4th CAN-USA Annual Development Conference)

Conference Theme:

“Engineering, Science, and Technology for Sustainable Development of a Developing Country”

Date: July 09-10, 2011

Venue: University of Houston Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058

(Hosted by Nepalese engineers and scientists in the Greater Houston area and Nepalese Students Association, University of Houston Clear Lake)

Abstracts Due Date: June 07, 2011

-- For registration to attend the conference, please visit <http://www.ASNEng.org> --**--**

Engineers, scientists and others from closely related disciplines will gather to discuss on the recent developments in engineering and science, and their impact in technological, social and economic growth of a developing nation. The conference will be held at the University of Houston Clear Lake, Houston, TX 77058 hosted by Nepalese engineers and scientists in the Greater Houston area and Nepalese Students Association, University of Houston Clear Lake.

Paper presentations are anticipated covering a wide variety of engineering, scientific and technology topics, including but not limited to, the following:

- Earthquake Preparedness & Disaster Relief in Nepal
- Engineering Problems and Solutions in Developing Countries like Nepal
- Application of scientific/engineering technologies into practice (Technology transfer)
- Sustainability, Alternative/Renewable Energy, Clean-Tech
- Information Technology and Its Role in the Society

- Robust Design and Construction Practices
- Recent Advances in Research & Development in Engineering and Technology
- Telemedicine and its feasibility in Nepal
- Other engineering and scientific topics of interest

Abstract Submission: All who wish to present their work at the Conference must submit an abstract of about 250 -500 words by **June 07, 2011** either **online** at <http://www.ASNEng.org> or via e-mail to Technical Chair(s) listed below. Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Technical Committee to determine their suitability for presentation at the Conference. Authors will be notified about status of their abstract by June 15, 2011.

All abstracts should be prepared according to the following format:

Provide 1” margin on all sides. (2) *1st line:* Type the title of presentation/ paper (Arial, 14 point font, bold and centered). (3) Leave one blank line below the presentation title and provide authors’ information - name, affiliation, city, state, country (use Times New Roman, 12 point font and centered). (4) Leave one blank line below the last author’s information and type heading for the abstract as **“ABSTRACT”** (use Times New Roman, 12 point font, bold, underlined and centered). (5) Leave a blank line below the abstract heading and provide abstract text of 250 - 500 words on the rest of the page (use single space, Times New Roman, not less than 10 point font, align text to left and right margins). The abstract may include representative figures and results. (6) Provide a footnote with each author’s job title, affiliation complete address, phone number, e-mail address, and ASNEng/CAN-USA membership grade, if any. **Limit abstract to 1 page.**

Conference Proceedings: All accepted abstracts will be compiled in the form of the conference proceedings/Book of Abstracts and will be posted on the ASNEng and CAN-USA websites. For reference, please see the proceedings of the previous years’ conference proceedings available at <http://www.ASNEng.org> and <http://www.CAN-USA.org>.

Tentative Program Schedule

(Subject to change)

Saturday, July 09, 2011

7:30AM - 4:00 PM -- Registration

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Conference Opening

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Technical Sessions I & II: Panel Discussions/Technical Presentations

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM: *Networking and Career Building Luncheon*

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM: *“How to Prepare for the Job Search” Workshop and Discussion*

2:45 PM – 6:00 PM: Technical Sessions III & IV: Panel

Discussions and Presentations
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM: Dinner followed by the Cultural program (courtesy of Greater Houston Nepali engineering and scientific community)
9:30 PM – 10:30 PM: ASNEng/CAN-USA Board of Directors/ Executive Committee Meetings

Sunday, July 10, 2011

8:30AM- 10:00 AM: ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual General Membership Meeting
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Open Discussion Forum
11:00 AM – Conference Closure followed by Sight-seeing around Houston for those interested.

Accommodation and Airport Transportation

Hotel: Candlewood Suites, 2737 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058 (within walking distance from the Conference venue; breakfast will be provided, rate per night: \$69 (discount rate). Contact: Leticia Garza (281-467-1329 cell Phone: 281-461-3060 Web site: <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cw/1/en/hotel/houba>

Airports: (a) Houston Hobby Airport; (b) Bush Intercontinental International Airport --Hobby to Hotel ~ 15 miles (\$19 in Super Shuttle)-- Bush Intercontinental to Hotel ~ 44 miles (\$40 in Super Shuttle). --Arrival/Departure in Hobby Airport Preferred.

Conference Organizing Committee Contacts

General Chairs:

Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, U.S.A (E-mail: MallaR@engr.uconn.edu)

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Technical Chairs:

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Visit: <http://www.ASNEng.org> for more information on ASNEng and its activities.

Visit: <http://www.CAN-USA.org> for more information on CAN-USA and its activities.

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) - 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 ASNEng and updates on its recent activities can be found at <http://www.ASNEng.org>.

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