



PRESS RELEASE

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American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) jointly held a very successful Sixth Annual Conference in Santa Clara, CA on June 29, 2013

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) held their sixth joint Annual Conference on June 29, 2013 at Intel's headquarters in Santa Clara, California, U.S.A. The conference was hosted by CAN-USA. The Conference was attended by about 70 participants, including practicing engineers, scientists, technologists, academicians, students, and industry leaders. The conference drew participants and speakers from the U.S., Malaysia and Nepal.

The conference, with the theme "Engineering, Science and Technology for a Better Living," deliberated on how state-of-the-art knowledge in Engineering, Applied Science & Disaster Communication such as Information and Communication Technology, Bio-Sciences, Medicine & Engineering Technology could be used to solve the problems in developed as well as developing countries including Nepal. The conference featured four technical sessions with 19 presentations among which five were presented from Nepal via Skype.

The conference kicked off at 9 A.M. on Saturday, June 29, 2013. Amod K. Pokhrel, Ph.D., and Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D., Conference General Co-Chairs and President of CAN-USA and ASNEngr, respectively, welcomed the attendees, introduced their respective professional organizations, and highlighted their organizations' scopes, activities and achievements. Three distinguished guests then presented special welcome remarks. First of all, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Mr. Shankar Prasad Adhikari, speaking from Kathmandu, Nepal via Skype, highlighted Nepal Government's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policies and several important developments that are taking place in this sector in Nepal. He called upon all Nepali diaspora, irrespective of where they are located, to make attempts to contribute their best to the growth and enhancement of engineering and scientific research, development, and education in Nepal and wished the attendees to have successful conference. Next, Mr. Binod Dhakal, President of Computer Association of Nepal (CAN), also joining from Kathmandu, indicated that the government of Nepal had setup a task force to develop business process outsourcing policy, and added that the implementation of this policy would further help spur Nepal's economic development. Then Mr. Bimal Sharma, Founding President of CAN and President of Center for Information Technology (CIT) in Kathmandu, Nepal delivered special remarks in person at the conference saying that only heavy investment in knowledge, innovation, and collaboration could aid a growth in Nepal. He also expressed confidence that this Joint ASNEngr/CAN-USA Conference would be able to address some of the problems Nepal is currently facing in the ICT and development sectors. Following those welcome remarks, Mr. Pradeep Khanal, Conference Technical Co-Chair and Vice-President, CAN-USA and Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., Conference Technical Co-Chair and Founding President, ASNEngr, highlighted an overview of the technical program of the Conference. The Conference Opening program was concluded with vote of thanks from Bineet Sharma, Chair, Local Conference Organizing Committee and Founding President, CAN-USA.

The four technical sessions of the day, two each in the morning and afternoon, consisted of technically and scientifically insightful and enriching presentations and went very well with active participation from the audience. Bimal Sharma, Founding President, CAN and Binod Tiwari, Ph.D., P.E., California State University, Fullerton, CA, chaired the first technical session entitled "*Joint ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal.*" Five technical presentations, including four via Skype

from Nepal, were presented in this session covering the status update on the position paper being prepared under the Joint America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), ASNEng, and CAN-USA Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal, infrastructures, medical and public health, communications, and resources for earthquake preparedness in Nepal. Kishor Panth, Cisco Systems, Kathmandu, Nepal and Achyut Shrestha, Suraj Green Tech (Kathmandu, Nepal), Phoenix, Arizona chaired the second technical session entitled "*Applied Science & Disaster Communication.*" Five papers including one via Skype from Nepal, were presented on technologies for emergency communications, earthquake-resistant building, and importance of communication to address post disaster situation.

The 2nd technical session was followed by the keynote speech from Arlene Blum, Ph.D. on "*Breaking Trail: Mountains and Molecules.*" Dr. Blum highlighted her journey from the undergraduate chemistry laboratory at the Reed College in Portland, Oregon to breathtaking mountains including Himalayas to the University of California, Berkeley from where she received Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry. She also highlighted how her manuscript, co-authored with Professor Bruce Ames, "*Flame Retardant Additives as Possible Cancer,*" written at the Everest basecamp in Nepal, was instrumental in banning Tris and Fyrol, two cancer-causing chemicals, that were used as a flame retardant on children's sleepwear.

Subsequently, Amod K. Pokhrel, Ph.D., Conference General Co-Chair and President of CAN-USA presented the CAN-USA 2012 Volunteer of the Year Award to Mr. Robert Rowlands of the Bay Area, CA, for his tremendous efforts in advancing the life-saving technology of amateur radio in Nepal and for his efforts in leading the historic installation of Nepal's first split band UHF/VHF repeater used in amateur radio.

In the afternoon, Nabin Acharya, Dell Systems, San Jose, CA, and Suresh Ojha, National Instruments, Santa Clara, CA, chaired the third technical session entitled "*Bio-Sciences, Medicine & Engineering.*" Various presentations under this session highlighted the importance of protein engineering to telemedicine to low cost air pollution monitoring devices that could save lives in developing countries. Nabin Khanal, Microsoft Corp, Seattle, WA, and Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., Founding President, ASNEng, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, chaired the fourth and final session "*Connecting with Nepal.*" Five technical and educational papers were presented in this session highlighting role of ICT in remote education, opportunities to work and volunteer in public agencies in Nepal, and potential for developing less expensive, but practically useful, electronic devices taking advantage of hardware and software developed by neighboring countries.

Subsequent to the final technical session, the ASNEng held its 2013 Annual General Membership Meeting in which reports on the Society's multiple activities and accomplishments, including establishment of four engineering student scholarships in Nepal, were presented and the Society's future short and long term activities, plans, and other areas of interest were discussed. The conference was concluded with the ASNEng/CAN-USA Networking Mixer in the evening, consisting of speakers and dinner. This evening program featured three speakers: Mr. David Sowerwine, VTS Founder & President and Mr. Skip Stritter, VTS Technology Director & Chairman of the Board, both from San Francisco, CA, and Mr. Bimal Sharma, Founding President of CAN and President of Center for Information Technology (CIT), Kathmandu, Nepal. Messrs. Sowerwine and Stritter presented on their *Looma project: an interactive computer system* (hardware and software) that would potentially bring internet-scale knowledge, inspiration, and new dynamics to classrooms worldwide. According to them, the system is still in its final development phase and five units of Looma had been donated to schools in Nepal for field testing. Finally, Mr. Sharma highlighted how CIT was effectively using technologies in solving the problem of digital divide in Nepal. He explained that by working together innovative way with many organizations, CIT has been able to accomplish technological based surveys, technical trainings, establishment of tele-centers and software development in remote parts of Nepal.

Amid warm hospitality and flawless execution by the Conference Organizing Committees the highly successful 2013 Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual Conference ended on a very high note with lots of enthusiasm and momentum for the next year's conference.

ASNEng and CAN-USA extend their sincere thanks and gratefully acknowledge many hours of voluntary time and efforts contributed by the members of the various Conference Organizing Committees (with special appreciation to members of the Local Organizing Committee) and the generous support provided by all the

sponsors to make the event a grand success. Following corporations sponsored the event by providing direct or in-kind support: Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, CA; Casa Azteca, Milpitas, CA; Third Eye Travel, Fremont, CA; Microsoft Corporation, Seattle, WA; and John Hancock, Charlotte, NC. Ms. Samana Ghimire served as the master of ceremony of the entire program. Her contribution to the Conference in this capacity is gratefully acknowledged.

Last but not least, ASNEng and CAN-USA express their deep appreciations to authors/presenters and conference attendees without whose participation the Conference would not have been possible.

More information on this year's and past years' conferences can be found on the ASNEng website at <http://www.ASNEng.org> and the CAN-USA website at <http://www.can-usa.org>.

***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>.*

***Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA)** is an American organization dedicated to the professional development of its members and technological progress of Nepal. It is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with members throughout the United States. The organization continues to utilize the creativity and talent of its members and the broader American community to develop technology-rich solutions that address some of Nepal's challenges. Please visit <http://www.can-usa.org/> for more information.*