

## **Session on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal at the NAsEA/ANMA Annual Convention, Aug. 31, 2013, Spartunburg, SC**

The joint session of American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng), America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) on “Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal” was held on August 31 at the 2013 Joint NAsEA/ANMA Convention in Spartanburg, SC. About 25 people attended the session. This session was led by American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and moderated by Dr. Prahlad Pant and Dr. Prakash B. Malla. Dr. Prakash Malla opened the session with welcoming remarks and outlined the structure of the session. Mr. Bimal Karki, P.E. gave brief introduction of the ASNEng including history, current officers and board of directions and membership categories. Membership in the Society is open to all people with Nepalese background/connection and friends of Nepal who have degree in an engineering field or in a closely related technical/scientific area that support and enhance the profession of engineering through education, practice, and research.

Following this, Dr. Prakash Malla presented an overview of the joint ANMF/ASNEng/CAN-USA initiative on earthquake preparedness and disaster relief in Nepal. Dr. Malla mentioned that Nepal lies on one of the hot bed areas of seismically active regions in the world. An occurrence of an earthquake of magnitude 8.0 or greater in Kathmandu is imminent which will invariably cause a great destruction of lives and properties. Kathmandu requires unprecedented preparedness to endure the burden of widespread structural destruction and mass casualties resulting from an earthquake. On March 31, 2010, ANMF/ASNEng/CAN-USA joined hands to launch a collaborative initiative to prepare a position paper on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief for Nepal.

The third presentation was the highlight of the session and was presented by Dr. Prahlad Pant. This presentation prepared and authored by Kanhaiya Kayastha, S.E. and Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. dealt with the physical infrastructure issues in relation to the earthquake disaster preparedness and relief in Nepal. The presentation emphasized the importance of having a robust infrastructure and compared the damages caused by an earthquake in 2010 in Haiti versus Chile.

Following the presentation, there was an interactive and lively discussion on this issue and everybody appreciated the efforts put together by ASNEng in collaboration with ANMF and CAN-USA. Overall consensus was that the timely release of the position paper and continuous communication with the proper authorities in Nepal would be extremely helpful in minimizing the loss of lives and property as well as enhancing rescue and relief efforts in the event of an occurrence of an earthquake of mega magnitude in Nepal.

Prepared by  
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