



## Press Release

### **American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) Hold Very Successful Fourth Annual Conference Jointly in Houston, TX; July 09-10, 2011**

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) held their second joint Annual Conference on July 9-10, 2011 at University of Houston – Clear Lake, Houston, Texas, U.S.A. For both organizations, this was their 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference. This was a landmark conference for both organizations because it was organized stand-alone, independent of other Nepali organizations, for the first time. The conference was attended by a diverse mix of about 50 practicing engineers, scientists and students from the industry, government agencies, and academia and 30 accompanying guests and student volunteers, adding the total number to about 80 participants. The conference drew participants from far and near places, including the states of Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maryland/Washington D.C., and Washington, in the U.S., as well as two from Kathmandu, Nepal, who presented their research results remotely via the Skype connection.

The theme of this conference was “*Engineering, Science, and Technology for Sustainable Development of a Developing Country*”. The conference provided a common venue for the engineers, scientists, and related professionals to discuss on relevant topics, including but not limited to, Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal, Renewable Energy Technologies and Engineering Advances, and Advances in Infrastructure Design and Management. The conference included four technical sessions with 18 presentations and a timely and much appreciated Workshop on the job search preparation.

The conference kicked off on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> with a welcome note and the introduction of the conference chairs and the invited guests by Janak Thapa, one of the Lead members of the Local Organizing Committee. Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., President of ASNEngr and Nabin Khanal, President of CAN-USA welcomed the attendees and gave Conference opening remarks and introductory presentations on behalf of their respective organizations. Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph. D., Conference Technical Co-chair and Vice President of ASNEngr gave a warm welcoming address to all on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee. He also relayed the message from His Excellency Honorable Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ph.D., Ambassador of Nepal to the United States. Following this, the invited guests: Honorable Mr. Hubert Vo, State Representative of Texas; Mr. Gordon Quan, Immigration Attorney and former Houston City Council Member, Foster and Quan, LLP, Houston, TX and Sameer Pande, Ph.D., Executive Director, Office of International Students Initiatives, University of Houston Clear Lake, Houston, TX gave welcome remarks and warm wishes for the success of the conference. In the same opening session, Dr. Malla presented an overview of the detailed program of the conference and Jagannath Ghimire, P.E., General Secretary, ASNEngr, gave the vote of thanks.

Following the conference opening, session chairs Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D. and Jagannath Ghimire, P.E. started the first Technical Session entitled “*Joint ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal*”. The presentations included “Status Update on the Joint ANMF/ASNEngr/CAN-USA Initiative on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal” and “Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal –

Infrastructure Safety and Security” both presented by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.; “Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal – Medical and Public Health” and “Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal – Information Technology and Communication” both by Nabin Khanal (the first one was on behalf of Sunil Sharma, M.D., President of America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF)); and “Earthquake Risk Reduction in Nepal – Needs and Opportunities” by Amod Mani Dixit from Nepal remotely via Skype.

In the second technical session entitled “*Earthquake Consideration and Flood Analysis in Nepal*” chaired by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D and Ms. Samana D. Ghimire, four presentations were made that dealt with earthquake considerations in building construction and geotechnical engineering and flood analysis. The specific presentations included “Earthquake Hazards in the Kathmandu Valley: Geological and Geotechnical Considerations” by Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D.; “Seismic Vulnerability of Buildings in Developing Areas of the Globe: Nepal” by Janak Thapa; “Earthquake Safer and Climate Responsive School Building Construction in Nepal” by Jishnu K. Subedi, Ph.D from Nepal remotely via Skype; and finally “Regional Flood Frequency Analysis of Bagmati and Narayani River Basins using L-Moment” by Rajendra Shrestha.

There was a 45-minute Networking Lunch break after the 2<sup>nd</sup> technical session at the end of which ASNEngr President, Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. announced the official request/application made by the Nepalese Scientific and Engineering Community in the Greater Washington, D.C. area via Jagannath Ghimire, P.E., ASNEngr General Secretary to establish “The Greater Washington D.C. Chapter of ASNEngr” and their bid to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society in 2012 in the Washington, D.C. Metro area.

Following the Networking Lunch and the announcement, Nabin Khanal and Jagannath Ghimire presented a highly interactive workshop and discussion on “*How to Prepare for the Job Search*” related to tips on job search process and resume-writing. Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D. served as the moderator of the session. Following the workshop, Nabin Khanal and Sanjay Basnet, P.E. chaired the third technical session entitled “*Renewable Energy Technologies and Engineering Advances*”. The various presentations under this session highlighted the emerging engineering advancements. The presentations included - “Bridge Vibration Energy Harvesting utilizing an Electromagnetic Generator” by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D.; “Fluidization of Inert, Biomass Particles, and Biomass/Sand Mixtures” by Mr. Basu Paudel; “Elements of Rigid Pavement and Construction” by Prakash Shrestha, P.E.; “Development of a Technique to Diagnose Subtalar Joint Instability” by Ajaya Dhakal; and finally, “Structural and Functional Characterization of Hard Tissue using X-ray Diffraction Method” by Bijay Giri, Ph.D.

After a short break for snacks, Janak Thapa, P.E. and Pradeep Khanal started the fourth Technical Session entitled “*Advances in Infrastructure Design and Management*”. The presentations included: “Design of a Swivel Hoist, Bracket Lifting Lug for Multi-Directional Forces and Moments” by Kamesh Adhikary, P.E.; “Urban Transportation System: A closer Look at Baltimore City” by Jagannath Ghimire, P.E.; “Lead Acid Battery in ICT in Nepal – Time to Manage the Toxin” by Ms. Samana D. Ghimire; and “Pavement Design & Management System at Houston Airport System” by Dev Raj Pokhrel.

Upon completion of the four technical sessions, ASNEngr held its Annual General Membership and Board of Directors Meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Malla, President of the Society. In the evening the participants enjoyed a delicious Nepali Dinner and a fun-filled, gala Cultural Program by the Greater Houston Nepalese Engineering and Scientific Community. Following these events, Dr. Ramesh B. Malla presented Certificates of Appreciation from American Society

of Nepalese Engineers to all organizing committee members, students volunteers, cultural program performers, and sponsors to recognize their help and support for the Conference.

On the second and final day, Sunday July 10, a tour and sight-seeing was arranged around the Greater Houston area for interested conference participants, courtesy of the Greater Houston Nepalese Engineering and Scientific Community. Amid warm hospitality and flawless execution by the local organizing committee in Houston, the highly successful Annual Joint Conference ended on a very high note with lots of enthusiasm and momentum.

ASNEng and CAN-USA express their sincere thanks and gratefully acknowledge many hours of voluntary time and effort given by the Conference Organizing Committee members and friends and the generous financial and in-kind support provided by all the sponsors to make the event a grand success. In particular, the conference received commendable support from the officers/members of Nepalese Students Association, University of Houston Clear Lake.

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***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.

