

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**(July 22, 2014)**

### **American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) jointly held a very successful 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Tempe, Arizona on June 21-22, 2014**

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) held their 7<sup>th</sup> joint Annual Conference on June 21 - 22, 2014 at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, U.S.A. The Conference was attended by approximately 70 participants, including practicing engineers, scientists, technologists, academicians, students, and industry leaders.

The conference, with the theme “*Applications of Engineering, Science and Technology in building a Safer, Better and Sustainable Society,*” deliberated on how state-of-the-art knowledge in engineering, applied science, information and communication technology, renewable energy, and education could be utilized to address problems in developed as well as developing countries including Nepal. The conference featured four sessions with 18 technical presentations.

The conference kicked off in the morning of Saturday, June 21, 2014 with a brief welcome note from Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., Conference Technical Co-Chair and Founding President of ASNEng. Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D., Conference General Co-Chair and President of ASNEng (via Skype) and Pradeep Khanal, Conference Technical Co-Chair and Vice-President of CAN-USA welcomed the attendees, introduced their respective professional organizations, and highlighted their organizations’ scopes, activities and achievements. Following which, Dr. Malla provided an overview of the conference program. The opening program was concluded with vote of thanks from Achyut Shrestha, Chair, Local Conference Organizing Committee.

The plenary session chaired by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT and Nalini Chhetri, Ph.D., Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ had two invited keynote and one invited guest speakers. The first keynote lecture was given by Bharat Raj Pahari, Ph.D., Dean of Institute of Engineering, (IOE), Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He highlighted the historical role of science and technology in the progress of human society and talked about the role IOE has played in advancing engineering education and profession in Nepal. He also called upon all Nepali diaspora, irrespective of where they are located, for collaboration for the growth and enhancement of engineering and scientific research, development, and education in Nepal. The second keynote speaker, Gary Dirks, Ph.D., Director, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona talked about the global energy situation and future scenarios in developing countries. He talked about the existing and potential energy resources, focusing on renewable and sustainable energy systems. The invited guest speaker Govindasamy Tamizhmani, Ph.D., Director of Photovoltaic Reliability laboratory, Arizona State University and President of TUV Rheinland PTL, Tempe, AZ gave an overview on “Solar Photovoltaics: Vocational Training Tool for Trainers and Technicians,” a topic that would be very useful in the context of Nepal.



*Keynote Speaker, Dr. Bharat Raj Pahari, Dean, Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*

The remaining three sessions of the day, one in the latter part of the morning and two in the afternoon, each consisted of 5 technically and scientifically insightful and enriching presentations, and were well received with an active participation from the audience. Ananta R. Baidya, P.E., San Diego, CA and Netra Chhetri, Ph.D., Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, chaired the second session entitled *“Earthquake Preparedness, Disaster Relief, and Infrastructure Safety in Nepal.”* Topics of the 5 presentations in this session included the latest status update on the position paper on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal being prepared under the joint initiative of ASNEng, America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), and CAN-USA, earthquake resilient infrastructures and urban planning, disaster preparedness and communications, and highway safety considerations in Nepal.



*Keynote Speaker, Dr. Gary Dirks, Director, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ*

In the afternoon, Ambika Adhikari, Dr. Des., AICP, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ and Murari Pradhan, Ph.D., P.E., Arizona Department of Transportation, Phoenix, AZ chaired the third technical session entitled *“Engineering, Development, and Education as Related to Nepal and Developing Countries.”* Presentations in this session covered topics from engineering solutions to energy crisis in Nepal to the role the diaspora can play in having educational, social, and humanitarian impact in Nepal. Pradeep Khanal, Santa Clara, CA and Sudip Koirala, Ph.D., Chandler, AZ, both affiliated with Intel Corporation, chaired the fourth and final technical session titled *“Recent Advances in Engineering and Sciences.”* The five technical papers presented in this session discussed on recent advances on various state-of-the-art engineering, scientific, and technology topics related to renewable energy in developing countries like Nepal, practical engineering solutions to monitor the household water storage system, basics of effective information technology, highway infrastructure materials, and design and analysis considerations for lunar habitat structures.

Subsequent to the final technical session, ASNEng held its 2014 Annual General Membership Meeting, chaired by ASNEng President Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D. (via Skype), in which the Society’s mission, history, structure, multiple activities, and accomplishments were highlighted. Also the announcement of newly elected Officers and Board of Directors for the next 2 year term of 2014-2016 was made. Following the ASNEng annual general membership meeting, about 30 attendees visited an off-campus Innovation Center in Chandler Arizona called the TechShop, sponsored by Arizona State University. The day’s events were concluded with the ASNEng/CAN-USA Networking Dinner in the evening. During the dinner program, Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. recognized all sponsors/donors and members of the Conference Organizing Committee by presenting the Certificate of Appreciation to each of them on behalf of ASNEng.

In the morning of Sunday June 22, 2014, a very constructive and intellectually fruitful roundtable discussion was held. Approximately, 20 individuals were in attendance at the discussion forum, including Dr. Bharat Pahari, Dean, IOE, Nepal; several current and past ASNEng/CAN-USA Officers and Board of Directors (Dr. Ambika Adhikari, Mr. Ananata Baidya, Mr. Pradeep Khanal, Dr. Ramesh Malla, and Mr. Achyut Shrestha); and several local Nepali professionals (Drs. Nalini Chhetri, Netra Chhetri, Milan Shrestha, Samridhi Shrestha, Mr. Gajendra Shrestha, and others). Discussion took place on various topics related to possible collaboration and contribution that the Nepali diaspora in the U.S., having experience in the fields of engineering, science, technology and education, can make in Nepal.

Amidst warm hospitality and flawless execution by the Conference Organizing Committees the highly successful 2014 Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual Conference concluded on a very high note with significant enthusiasm and momentum for the next conference in 2015.

ASNEng and CAN-USA extend their sincere appreciation and gratefully acknowledge the 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/donors to render the event a grand success.

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.



A Group Photo of Some of the Attendees at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference

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>.

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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.