

PRESS RELEASE

(September 17, 2015)

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) jointly held a very successful 8th Annual Conference in North Brunswick, New Jersey on August 29-30, 2015

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) held their 8th joint Annual Conference on August 29 - 30, 2015 in North Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A. The Conference was attended by approximately 70 participants, including the Ambassador of Nepal to the United States, the U.N. Under-Secretary-General, President of Nepal Engineers' Association, and practicing engineers, scientists, technologists, academicians, students, and industry leaders.

The conference, with the theme *“Engineering, Science and Technology for the Future”* 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 in the future. This year's conference was focused on various aspects related to the recent (April & May 2015) earthquakes in Nepal. The conference featured one plenary with 3 distinguished speakers, and four regular sessions with 19 technical presentations.

The conference kicked off in the morning of Saturday, August 29, 2015 with a brief welcome note from Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., Conference Technical 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 General Co-Chair and 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. Upendra L. Karna, D.Eng, P.E., Local Organizing Committee Chair, welcomed the participants. The opening program was concluded with vote of thanks from Conference Technical Co-Chair Thakur Dhakal, P.E.

The plenary session chaired by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT and Thakur P. Dhakal, P.E., County Government, Fairfax, VA had two invited guests and one invited keynote speaker. His Excellency Dr. Arjun K. Karki, the Nepalese Ambassador to the United States, Embassy of Nepal, Washington, D.C., highlighted ASNEng activities and appreciated the help on disaster relief effort immediately after Gorkha Earthquake, 2015 in his Inaugural Welcome Remark. He also expressed his interest to work with Nepali engineering community in the USA for a better Nepal.



Invited Guest Speaker, Dr. Arjun K. Karki, Nepalese Ambassador to the United States, Embassy of Nepal, Washington, D.C.

The Keynote Speaker, Honorable Gyan C. Acharya, U.N. Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United Nations, NY discussed on the devastation caused by the Gorkha Earthquake 2015 and talked about the role of the US engineering and scientific community to rebuild and reconstruct Nepal. The

Invited Guest Speaker, Er. Dhruba R. Thapa, President of Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA), thanked ASNEng for its contribution immediately after the earthquake and expressed NEA's desire to work with Nepalese engineering community in the USA during the reconstruction phase of Nepal.



Keynote Speaker, Gyan C. Acharya, U.N. Under-Secretary General & High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United Nations, NY

The remaining four technical sessions of the day, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, each consisted of technically and scientifically insightful and enriching presentations, and were well received with an active participation from the audience. Pradeep Khanal, Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, CA and Gopi Upreti, Ph.D., Booz Allen Hamilton, Fairfax, VA, chaired the first session entitled *“Earthquake Preparedness, Disaster Relief, and Infrastructure Safety in Nepal-1.”* Topics of the 4 presentations in

this session included highlights on the position paper on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal, which was prepared under the joint initiative of ASNEng, America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), and CAN-USA; response activities and lessons from the April 25 & May 12, 2015 Gorkha Earthquake; disaster risk reduction and improving community resilience: field perspective; and Radio Mala, an example of telecommunication collaborations before, during and after the earthquake.

The second session entitled *“Earthquake Preparedness, Disaster Relief, and Infrastructure Safety in Nepal-II.”* was chaired by Ananta Baidya, P.E., San Diego, CA and Pujan Joshi, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Presentations in this session included post 2015 Nepal earthquakes: time to practice participatory engineering, understanding of Nepal earthquake damage and engineering challenges for rehabilitation and design of infrastructures, involvement in Nepal: earthquake damage observation and ASNEng involvement, and seismic retrofitting of existing structures after the earthquake in Nepal.



Invited Speaker, Dhruba Thapa, President of Nepal Engineers' Association

During the lunch, Uditi Karna, a high school student at Princeton Day School presented her recent earthquake relief works in Nepal. The younger generation was inspired, and learned that they too could make a difference in Nepal.

Rajendra Bhattarai, P.E., BCEE, Austin Water, Austin, TX and Shree P. Shaha, P.E., West Windsor, NJ chaired the third session titled *“Environment, Water Resources and Related Science and Technologies.”* The five technical papers presented in this session discussed on environment and water resources science and technology topics. These included Unexpected Pathway of Phosphorus Cycling in the Chesapeake Bay: Potential Impacts and Opportunities, Water Resource Recovery: Challenges and Opportunities for Nepal, Nutrient Recovery from Wastewater: A Global Perspective, Waste to Energy: A Win-win Proposition, and Impacts of Small Stormwater Runoff: Urban Development Stormwater Policy Review.

The fourth and final technical session titled *“Recent Advances in Engineering and Sciences”* was chaired by Ram C. Poudel, Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk Campus, Nepal (currently at the University of

Massachusetts, Amherst, MA) and Deependra Pokharel, Orbital ATK, Herndon, VA. The six technical papers presented in this session discussed on recent advances on various state-of-the-art engineering, scientific and technology topics - A Bitwise Encoding Scheme Designed to Improve the Speed of Large Scale Gene Set Comparison; A Quest for Development Meteorology; Space Technology and Satellites in Nepal; Introduction to Solar Photovoltaic Systems: Technology, Costs and Benefits; Use of Multivariate Analysis, Predictive Modeling and Machine Learning Algorithms to Detect Anomalous Transactional Data; and Displacement Response of a Railroad Truss Bridge under Various Train Speeds.

Subsequent to the final technical session, a sponsor/industry forum was conducted. The forum was moderated by Surya Lamsal, P.E., Ozone Park, NY and Biswa Baral, Marlboro, NJ. Four sponsors including Bhurtel Law Firm, U & S Engineers, P.C., Sagoon, and TaxRaja Accounting Management Associates participated in the forum. The day's events were concluded with the ASNEng/CAN-USA Networking Dinner and cultural program in the evening. During the dinner program, Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. recognized all guests, sponsors/donors, members of the Conference Organizing Committee, volunteers, and participants of the cultural program by presenting the Certificates of Appreciation to each of them on behalf of ASNEng.

In the morning of Sunday August 30, 2015 ASNEng held its 2015 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. A very constructive and intellectually fruitful discussion was held during the meeting. Approximately 20 members/officers/BOD and guests were in attendance including Er. Dhruva R. Thapa, President, NEA, in the meeting. 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. Meeting also discussed and decided to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding between ASNEng and NEA for the future potential collaborative projects in Nepal.

Amidst warm hospitality and flawless execution by the Conference Organizing Committees, the highly successful 2015 Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual Conference concluded on a very high note with significant enthusiasm and momentum for the next conference in 2016.

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, all volunteers, 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 the invited guests, 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 8th Annual ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference, North Brunswick, NJ: August 29-30, 2015

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.*