

PRESS RELEASE

(October 12, 2016)

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) jointly held a very successful 9th Annual Conference in Humble (Greater Houston), TX on September 17-18, 2016

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) held their 9th joint Annual Conference on September 17 - 18, 2016 in Humble/Houston, Texas, U.S.A. The Conference was attended by approximately 100 participants, practicing engineers, scientists, technologists, academicians, students, and industry leaders.

The conference, with the theme “*Advances in Engineering, Science and Technology for Sustainable Development*” 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. The conference featured one plenary session with 3 distinguished speakers, and three regular sessions with 13 technical presentations.

The conference kicked off in the morning of Saturday, September 17, 2016 with a brief welcome note from Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., Conference Technical Chair and Founding President of ASNEng. Jagannath Ghimire, P.E., Conference General Chair & President, ASNEng and Suresh Ojha, President of CAN-USA welcomed the attendees, introduced their respective professional organizations, and highlighted their organizations’ scopes, activities and achievements, following which, Dr. Malla and Dr. Rabin Bhattarai (Conference Technical Co-Chair) provided an overview of the conference program. Rajendra Shrestha, P.E., Local Organizing Committee Chair, welcomed the participants. The opening program was concluded with vote of thanks from Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D., Immediate Past President of ASNEng and Thakur Dhakal, P.E., General Secretary, ASNEng.

During the Opening program, the Chief Invited Guest Speaker, Mr. Jiban Prakash Shrestha, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Nepal, Washington, D.C. presented Inaugural Remarks and wished a successful conference. He also expressed Embassy’s interest to work with Nepali engineering community in USA for better Nepal. Mr. Jyoti K. Ghimire, President of Nepalese Association of Houston (NAH) thanked ASNEng for organizing its annual conference in Houston.



Chief Guest, Mr. Jiban P Shrestha, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Nepal, Washington, D.C.

The plenary session chaired by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT had three key note speakers - Omprakash Gnawali, Ph.D.; Jennifer Vardeman-Winter, Ph.D.; and Rakesh Verma, Ph.D. from the University of Houston, TX. They presented on the topic “*Understanding Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: A Case Study from Nepal Earthquakes of 2015.*” The presentation included the research team’s work exploring human preparedness and perception in the context of the Nepal Earthquakes of 2015. Specifically, plenary session speakers shared the results from an extensive interview project in Nepal after the earthquakes to understand how prepared people felt for the earthquakes and their aftermath and the automated analysis of newspaper

articles written in Nepal both in English and Nepali to keep track of how the media covered the earthquakes and recovery.

The remaining three technical sessions of the day, one 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. Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D., ConocoPhillips, Houston, TX and Yogendra Jonchhe, Suny Alfred State College, Hornell, NY, chaired the first session entitled *“Earthquake Preparedness, Disaster Relief, and Infrastructure Safety Sustainability.”* Topics of the three presentations in this session included Issues and Challenges for Development of Disaster Resilient Hydropower in Nepal; Geodetic Imaging for Earthquake Research & Education; and Application of Seismic Belts for Strengthening of Un-Reinforced Masonry Wall Panels with Openings.



Keynote Speakers: , Omprakash Gnawali, Ph.D., Jennifer Vardeman-Winter, Ph.D., and Rakesh Verma, Ph.D., University of Houston, TX

During the lunch break, Janak Thapa, P.E., Ch2M Hill, Houston, TX moderated a special program entitled *“Career Development.”* Another special video presentation was shown by Ananta Baidya, P.E. on *“ASNEng’s Involvement in Nepal, Lessons Learned and Challenges.”*

Ananda Paudel, Ph.D., Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO and Ram C. Paudel, Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (currently at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA) chaired the second session titled *“Environment, Water Resources and Climate Change.”* The five technical papers presented in this session discussed on environment and water resources science and climate change topics. These included Emerging Contaminants in Water: should we be worried; Adsorption of As (V) to titanium dioxide nanoparticles: effect of particle size, solid concentration and other metals; Development of a Web Based Tool to Estimate Irrigation Water Requirements for Agricultural Crops and Urban Landscape in Texas; Sustainability through Resource Recovery: Beyond the 3R's; and Assessment of climate change impact on water availability in Bagmati River basin, Nepal.

The third and the final technical session titled *“Recent Advances in Engineering and Sciences”* was chaired by Rajendra Bhattarai, P.E., BCEE, Austin Water, City of Austin, Austin, TX, and Subas Paudel, P.E., Burns & McDonnell, Houston, TX. The five technical papers presented in this session discussed on recent advances on various state-of-the-art engineering, scientific and technology topics, including Multifunctional Gold Nanoparticles for Gene Therapy with High Selectivity; Energetics Foundation of Statistical Economics; Optimal Energy Generation and Distribution Planning under Supply Uncertainty; Permission Attributes in Administration of Role Based Access Control Model; and Rehabilitation of Damaged Reinforced Concrete Members Using Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites.

Subsequent to the final technical session, ASNEng held its Board of Directors’ Meeting chaired by ASNEng President Jagannath Ghimire, P.E. A very constructive and intellectually fruitful discussion was held during the meeting. In addition to the ASNEng BOD members, all conference participants were invited and were in attendance at the meeting. A very live and fruitful discussion took place regarding the lesson learned at this year’s conference and what can be improved at the next annual conference. The participants overwhelmingly provided positive comments on various aspects of the conference. During the discussion, President of DC Chapter Dilliraman Neupane attended via phone and showed DC Chapter’s interest to hold next conference. The meeting decided to hold the 10th Annual Conference in DC Metro Area. During the meeting suggestions were also collected from the members and guests to improve Society’s effectiveness in serving Nepali engineering community and the students.

Amidst warm hospitality and effective and flawless execution by the Conference Organizing Committees, the highly successful 2016 Joint ASNEng/CAN-USA Annual Conference concluded on a very high note with significant enthusiasm and momentum for the next (2017) conference to be held in in the Greater Washington, D.C. Metro Area.

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 volunteers to make the conference a grand success. They also deeply appreciate and acknowledge. The generous support provided by all sponsors/donors.

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



A Group Photo of Some of the Attendees at the 9th Annual ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference, Humble/Houston, TX: September 17-18, 2016

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.*