

PRESS RELEASE

(July 20, 2017)

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) held a very successful 10th Annual Conference in Manassas, VA on June 24-25, 2017

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) held its Tenth (10th) Annual Conference and General Membership Meeting in Manassas, Virginia, U.S.A. on June 24 - 25, 2017. The Conference was attended by approximately 150 participants, including practicing engineers, scientists, technologists, academicians, students, industry leaders, and their guests.

The conference, with the theme “*Innovation in Engineering and Scientific Knowledge for Tomorrow*” deliberated on how state-of-the-art innovation in engineering, applied science, information and communication technology, renewable energy, and engineering economics could be utilized to address problems in developed as well as developing countries, including Nepal, in the future. The conference featured an opening program with 4 distinguished guest speakers, a keynote lecture, one plenary technical session with 3 distinguished speakers, and three more technical sessions, including one poster and two oral presentation sessions. Altogether 20 technical presentations were delivered at this year’s conference.

The conference kicked off the morning of Saturday, June 24, 2017 with a brief welcome note from the Conference General Chair, Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., F. ASCE, F. ASNEng. Jagannath Ghimire, P.E., President of ASNEng then welcomed the attendees and presented a brief introduction to the organization, highlighting its scope, activities and achievements. Following this, Upendra L. Karna, D.Eng., P.E., F. ASNEng,



*Distinguished guests and conference organizing chairs/co-chairs
(Conference General Chair Prof. Ramesh B. Malla-- speaking)*

Conference Technical Chair provided an overview of the technical program and Mangal Maharjan, Conference Local Chair, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee.

The Conference Opening program this year featured several distinguished invited guest speakers. Chief Guest His Excellency Dr. Arjun Karki, Nepalese Ambassador to the United States, Washington, DC presented Inaugural Remarks, wished a successful conference, and expressed the Embassy’s interest in working with the Nepali engineering community in the USA to further development of Nepal; His Excellency Mr. Scott DeLisi, former US Ambassador to Nepal and currently Executive Director, Soarway Foundation - Engage Nepal, Canonsburg, PA spoke on earthquake preparation in Nepal and potential partnership going forward; His Excellency Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, New York, NY talked about the UN mission and the Nepali diaspora; and Dr. Tri Ratna Bajracharya, Dean, Institute of Engineering(IOE), Tribhuvan University, Lalitpur, Nepal discussed the ongoing and future collaboration between ASNEng and IOE. The opening program was concluded with a vote of thanks from Dilli Neupane, P.E., President of ASNEng Greater Washington D.C. (GWDC) Chapter.

The keynote address on the very timely and important topic “Building Resilience in Nepal’s Healthcare System” was presented by the distinguished invited speaker Judith Mitrani-Reiser, Ph.D., Director, Disaster & Failure Studies Program, Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD; and Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering and Emergency Medicine and Co-Director,

Center for Systems Science and Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. This presentation addressed the overall quality of buildings in healthcare system after the recent 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

The four regular technical sessions—1 poster and 3 oral—of the day consisted of technically and scientifically insightful and enriching presentations, and were well received with an active participation from the audience.

The first session (*Invited Plenary*) chaired by Bimal Devkota, P.E. and Sukh Gurung, Ph.D., P.E. had three distinguished invited speakers—Ayhan Irfanoglu, Ph.D. from Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN; Matthew Francis, P.E. from AECOM, Salt Lake City, UT, and, Govinda Timilsina, Ph.D., from The World Bank, Washington, D.C. Their respective presentations were: “Field Survey and Guidelines for Preliminary Evaluation of Reinforced Concrete Buildings in Nepal,” “The UN Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Nepal Earthquake Recovery,” and “Policy Paper: Financing Hydropower for Economic Development in Nepal.”



Keynote speaker Dr. Judith Mitrani-Reiser

The second session (*Poster and Interaction*) was moderated by Ananda Paudel, Ph.D., Metropolitan State University of Denver, CO and Ram C. Poudel, Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (currently at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA). There were eight technical posters presented in this session, 5 by professional engineers/scientist and 3 by engineering students. Two of them were invited posters from Nepal, one dealing with application of roof top based solar electricity, and the other with a wind solar hybrid minigrid system for rural electrification

The poster presentation on “Maximizing Ozone Generation for Water Purification” by Sarahana Joshee of University of Maryland at Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD was voted to be the best among the student posters by a panel of judges. Ms. Joshee was awarded the best poster certificate with a \$100 check.

The third technical session (*Energy and Recent Advances in Engineering and Sciences*) was chaired by Shyam KC, Ph.D, The World Bank, Washington, DC and Rajendra Shrestha, P.E., City of Pearland, Pearland, TX. The session began with an invited presentation delivered by Prof. Tri Ratna Bajracharya of Institute of Engineering, Lalitpur, Nepal (co-authored with Sagar Gnawali of Nepal Electricity Authority) that discussed about the bagasse based grid connection cogeneration potential in Nepal and the contribution it could make in reducing load shedding. Other technical papers in this session discussed recent advances on various state-of-the-art engineering, scientific and technology topics.

The fourth and final technical session (*Advances in Infrastructure Research, Development, Design and Analysis*) was chaired by Upendra Poudel, Ph.D., P.E., SK&A MD | Structural Engineers and Rishi Baral, P.E., Stafford County Government, VA. There were four papers presented in this session that discussed advances made in the field of infrastructure research and development and, how these advances could be incorporated for development projects in Nepal.

Subsequent to the final technical session, ASNEng held a lively and fruitful “Discussion, Comments and Feedback Forum” moderated by Thakur Dhakal, P.E., Fairfax County Government, VA and Janak Thapa, P.E., CH2M, Houston, TX. Topics included the lessons learned at this year’s conference, improvements for the next annual conference, and various potential activities for ASNEng in the future. The participants were overwhelmingly positive in their comments on various aspects of the conference.

A pre-dinner open networking event was organized after the discussion forum. This session also provided young engineers and students a chance to interact with professionals in their field and get an insight into the current job market. The first day of the event was concluded with dinner and a cultural program.

On the first day of the conference ASNEng also presented prestigious Society level awards to three individuals. Two “Society Leadership” awards were given to past presidents, Prof. Ramesh B. Malla of

Storrs, CT (Founding President, 2007-2012) and Dr. Rajendra Shrestha, Houston, TX (Immediate Past President, 2012-2016) for their leadership and outstanding contributions to the Society during their respective tenures. Prof. Malla received the award from His Excellency Dr. Arjun Karki. On behalf of Dr. Shrestha, Dr. Upendra Karna, ASNEng Vice President, accepted the award from His Excellency Mr. Durga Bhattarai. ASNEng President, Mr. Jagannath Ghimire, P.E. presented the Society's "Outstanding Performance Award" to Mr. Pujan Joshi of Storrs, CT (Information Secretary 2010-2014; Website/Database Chair 2010-present) for his outstanding contribution in website and database management. These awards were presented in the form of plaques.

The conference concluded on next day, June 25th, after the ASNEng general membership meeting in the morning (9AM – 12 Noon). Several topics that are of significant importance to the Society were discussed at the meeting. Members expressed their deep satisfaction with this year's conference and discussed how ASNEng can increase member participation and further enhance the conference in the future. Amidst warm hospitality and effective and flawless execution by the Conference Organizing Committees, the highly successful 2017 ASNEng 10th Annual Conference concluded on a triumphant note with significant enthusiasm and momentum.

ASNEng extends its sincere appreciation and gratefully acknowledges the many hours of voluntary time and efforts contributed by the members of the various Conference Organizing Committees to make the conference a grand success. Special appreciation goes to members of the Local Organizing Committee and volunteers, including those who participated in the cultural program. The Society also deeply appreciates the generous support provided by all sponsors/donors.

Last but not least, ASNEng expresses its deep appreciation to the authors/presenters, session chairs/moderators, invited guests, and conference attendees, without whose participation the conference would not have been possible, let alone so successful.



A group photo of some of the attendees at the 10th Annual ASNEng Conference, Manassas, VA: June 24-25, 2017

More information on this year's and past years' conferences can be found on the ASNEng website at <http://www.ASNEng.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>.