

PRESS RELEASE

(August 5, 2018)

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) held a very successful 11th Annual Conference at Greenwood Village, CO on July 21-22, 2018

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) held its eleventh (11th) Annual Conference at Greenwood Village, CO, U.S.A. on July 21 - 22, 2018. The Conference was attended by over 100 participants, including practicing engineers, scientists, technologists, academicians, students, industry leaders, and their guests.

The conference, with the theme “Exploring the Advancement in Research and Development of Engineering, Science and Technology” deliberated on how state-of-the-art innovation in engineering, applied science, environment and water resources, information and communication technology, and renewable energy 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 one distinguished guest speaker, three keynote lectures in the plenary session, and four more technical sessions. Altogether 21 technical presentations were delivered at this year’s conference.

The conference kicked off the morning of Saturday, July 21, 2018 with a brief welcome note from the Conference General Chair, Upendra L. Karna, D.Eng., P. E., F. ASNEng. Following this, Thakur Dhakal, P.E., Conference Technical Chair provided an overview of the technical program and Ananda Paudel, Ph. D., Conference Local Chair, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee. Jagannath Ghimire, P.E., Immediate Past President of ASNEng and Upendra L. Karna, D.Eng., P. E., F. ASNEng, President of ASNEng welcomed the attendees and presented a brief introduction to the organization, highlighting its scope, activities and achievements, and future plans.



The Conference Opening program this year featured Chief Guest, His Excellency Dr. Arjun Karki, Nepali Ambassador to the United States, Washington, DC who presented Inaugural Remarks via a video message, 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.

The first session (Plenary Keynote), chaired by: Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., F. ASCE, F. ASNEng, Founding President, ASNEng, had three distinguished invited speakers. Dr. Barry Bialek, M.D., Founder and Executive Director, Nepal Community Development Foundation, Boulder, CO gave a presentation on “*Sustainable Development and NCDC/EWB.*” The second keynote speaker, Emily Wolin, Ph.D., Research Geophysicist, USGS, CO presented on “*USGS response to the 2015 Gorkha earthquake: data products and current projects.*” The third keynote speaker, Mathew Francis, P.E., M. ASCE, F. EERI Southwest Area Water/Wastewater

Department Manager, AECOM, Salt Lake City, UT gave a talk on “*Urban Resilience Planning In Seismic Settings – Applications for Nepal from Salt Lake City and Oakland*”, along with Mr. Michael Barrett, Emergency Program Manager, Salt Lake County, UT.

The second session (Advances in Infrastructure Research, Development, Design, and Analysis) was moderated by Sukh Gurung, Ph.D., P.E., Langan Engineering, Manhattan, NY; and Prakash Kaini, Ph. D., P.E., Aurora Water, City of Aurora, CO. There were six technical presentations on recent developments in structural, geotechnical and transportation engineering in this session, by five professional engineers/scientists and one engineering student. The presentation topics in this session ranged from Square and Heliogyro sails for space, retrofitting techniques for pagoda temples in Nepal, positive train technology, foundation and pavement design, to hazard mitigation planning.

The third technical session (Recent Advances in Information Technology and Education) was chaired by Deb Jaisi, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Delaware; and Naveen Dutta, Xilinx, Longmont, CO. There were five technical presentations on this session. The presentation topics in this session ranged from application of remote sensing and block-chain technology to internet of things and engineering education in Nepal.

Bheem P. Kattel, Ph.D., CPE, Highland Ranch, CO, and Kaushal Jha, Ph.D., P.E., Raba Kistner, Houston, TX chaired the fourth session (Recent Advances in Energy Engineering and Sciences). There were three papers presented in this session that discussed fan energy index, residential energy modeling and integrated management of renewable energy resources.

The fifth and final technical session (Advances in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering) was chaired by Lalit Jha, P.E., JEO Consulting, Lincoln, NE, Subash Paudel, P.E., Worleyparsons, Houston, TX. There were four papers presented in this session that discussed advances made in the field of subsurface drainage, real-time hydraulic modeling and synthesis of phosphorus removal practice in wastewater treatment plants.

Subsequent to the final technical session, ASNEng held a lively and fruitful Hackathon Demonstration session presented by Dibesh Shrestha, Kisam Thapa, and Akshaya Niraula.

On the first day of the conference ASNEng also presented prestigious Society level awards to two individuals. The “Society Leadership” award was given to immediate past president, Jagannath Ghimire, P.E. of Houston, TX, (President, 2016-2018) for his leadership and outstanding contributions to the Society during his tenure. Dr. Rabin Bhattarai of Urbana, IL (Newsletter Committee Chair 2010-2014; current Technical Co-Chair) was given the Society’s “Outstanding Performance Award” for his outstanding contribution in Newsletter Committee and Technical Committee. These awards were presented in the form of plaques.

A pre-dinner open networking event took place after two Hackathon demonstrations. 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 participants were overwhelmingly positive in their comments on various aspects of the conference. Several topics that are of significant importance to the society were discussed in that session. 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 2018 ASNEng 11th Annual Conference concluded on a triumphant note with significant enthusiasm and momentum. The conference was concluded with dinner and a cultural program.

On the second day, many conference participants enjoyed the site seeing tour of Denver and Rocky Mountain.

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.



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>.