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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D.

President, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng)

Dear Colleagues and Well Wishers:

It has been over a year since the newly elected took the office of the ASNEng on July 22, 2014 and I am pleased to inform you that ASNEng has made significant achievements during this period as specified below:

- In the wake of the Gorkha Earthquake on April 25, 2015, held a fund raiser and used part of the fund to provide relief packages to the earthquake victims in the Chhoprak and Kerabari VDCs of Gorkha District, provide financial contribution to the Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) to support its post-quake Rapid Damage Assessment of Buildings and support the Nepal visit of the Nepal Liaison Committee Chair Ananta Ram Baidya, P.E. to assess the post-quake damages, coordination with other agencies/organizations, and publicize the position paper. He was supported by Shiwani Bhandari in Nepal.
- Sunita Amatya P.E., ASNEng member, also visited Nepal to contribute in the post-quake damage assessment and represented ASNEng in meetings with NEA and National Planning Commission of Nepal.
- Published the book on "Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal – A Position Paper," jointly prepared with American Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) and Computer Association of Nepal (CAN-USA) on May 2, 2015. Sincere thanks to Dr. Ramesh B. Malla for leading the joint effort and serving as the Editor-in-Chief and to Mr. Kanhaiya Kayastha serving as an Associate Editor from ASNEng, and close involvement of ASNEng officers, Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D. and Upendra Karna, D.Eng., P.E., and BOD member Ambika Adhikari, Dr. Des., AICP, for assuming responsibility in the text preparation and editorial task of this volume.
- Provided Merit awards to Utshav Neupane (Tribhuvan University), Prashant Subedi (Kathmandu University), Shailendra Kunwar (Pokhara University) and Selina Shrestha (Tribhuvan University).
- Conducted interaction meetings on "Disaster Risk Reduction" with visiting National Society for Earthquake Technology Nepal (NSET) representatives in Virginia supported by GWDC on Oct. 10, 2014 and colleagues in NY/NJ area coordinated by Dr. Upendra Karna on Oct. 11, 2014.
- Provided support and full approval to form the Greater Houston Chapter of ASNEng, its second Chapter based in Houston, Texas.

- Published ASNEng Non-discrimination Policy on Oct. 26, 2014, thanks to Jagannath Ghimire for initiating it and Attorney Gregg A. Clements for reviewing it pro bono.
- Contributed \$1,000 to the NRN NCC of USA to support the NRN Building construction in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Organized the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference jointly with CAN-USA, Aug. 29, 2015, North Brunswick, NJ with huge success resulting from the remarkable contributions from the Local Organizing Committee, Technical Committee, sponsors and volunteers; kindly refer to the Press Release in this Newsletter for details about this conference.
- Held the Annual General Membership Meeting on Aug. 30, 2015 in the Clarion Inn Hotel, North Brunswick, NJ with very prolific participation from the BOD and members and Er. Dhruba R. Thapa, President, Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) and interaction leading to the recommendations for the future direction of the Society and the preparation of the Memorandum of Understanding with NEA for the future technical collaboration between these two organizations.
- Added 43 new members in 2014/2015, thanks to the proactive processing efforts by Upendra Karna, D. Eng., P.E., General Secretary and Thakur Dhakal, P.E., Joint Secretary.
- The Greater Washington D.C. Chapter has been doing a commendable job in organizing seminars, Engineer's Night and talk programs such as "Nepal Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction" on June 20, 2015.
- Appreciate ConocoPhillips Company and CH2M Hill for financial support through volunteer grants.

If you have not renewed your ASNEng membership this year, please do so at your earliest convenience.

I would like to take the opportunity to extend appreciation to Dr. Rabin Bhattacharai, Chair, Publication/ Newsletter Committee for putting hard work in bringing this Newsletter to fruition.

We appreciate your feedback and participation in all of the Society's activities. The ASNEng belongs to all of us, hence, steering it to the right direction for its productive execution and growth is our responsibility.

Best regards,  
Rajendra K. Shrestha, Ph.D.  
President, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng)  
[www.ASNengr.org](http://www.ASNengr.org)

## Message from the ASNEng Newsletter Committee

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We are glad to bring forward Volume 7 of the ASNEng Newsletter. The Newsletter Committee appreciate your valuable suggestions, comments, input/feedback, and contributed news and articles. Without your constant support, we wouldn't have been able to bring you another volume of our newsletter. We hope that you will continue to provide constructive suggestions and feedbacks for improving the quality of the Newsletter. We also request you to keep on sending news items, technical articles and other interesting pieces that would appeal to the mass readers. Please send your contributions, questions or comments about newsletter to the Newsletter/Publication Committee at [newsletter@asnengr.org](mailto:newsletter@asnengr.org).

## Announcements

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### Call for membership

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) aims at bringing engineers and professionals in related areas together to exchange ideas and share knowledge for the benefit of the human society. The society also strives to bring forth programs that promote engineering, scientific, and technological advancement in Nepal. In the immediate future, we are planning to implement the scholarships program. Needless to say, your valuable support and participation is more important than ever.

Membership is open to engineers as well as scientists and technologists who have qualifications and expertise in areas closely related to any branch of engineering. To join the society, please fill the online application form at <http://www.asnengr.org/membership/MembershipOnline.php>. We appreciate your support and look forward to your active participation in the society's activities.

## Please Renew your Annual Membership

Your continued support is crucial to our society. Please renew your membership using the following link today:

<http://www.asnengr.org/membership/MembershipRenewal.php>

Please disregard this message if you have already renewed your membership for 2015 or you are a life member of the Society. If you have any problems with online renewal system, please contact us at [info@ASNEng.org](mailto:info@ASNEng.org).

## Call to join the ASNEng Nepal Liaison Committee

The ASNEng Nepal Liaison Committee is looking for members interested in joining the Committee to develop and implement programs for Nepal post 2015 Nepal earthquakes. All interested members, please contact the Committee Chair Ananta R. Baidya, P.E., via e-mail at [baidya.a.opposite@gmail.com](mailto:baidya.a.opposite@gmail.com) or by phone at 858-414-9631 (cell)/ 858-538-0907 (home).

## Awards & Achievements

### ASNEng awarded merit-based scholarship to Nepalese students

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) is pleased to announce the selection of the following students from three different universities of Nepal for the Student Merit Award for 2014. This award is given to the top ranked students in the entrance examinations administered by various universities in Nepal in their selection process for undergraduate (bachelor's) degree in any engineering field. This award of \$200 is to support their academic related expenses and is in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements.

In addition, starting this year ASNEng is also providing a merit award to a female engineering student determined most meritorious and deserving among the top ranked female students in the entrance examinations of the various universities who respond to the Call for Nomination for the ASNEng awards.

### **Utshav Neupane**

(Top ranked student in the 2014 Entrance Examination)  
Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University  
Kathmandu, Nepal

### **Prashant Subedi**

(Top ranked student in the 2014 Entrance Examination)  
School of Engineering, Kathmandu University  
Dhulikhel, Nepal

### **Shailendra B. Kunwar**

(Top ranked student in the 2014 entrance Examination)  
Faculty of Science & Technology, Pokhara University  
Pokhara, Nepal

### **Selina Shrestha**

(Most Meritorious Student among the top ranked female students in the 2014 Entrance Examinations of responding universities)  
Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University  
Kathmandu, Nepal

### ASNEng Founding President Receives Prestigious Awards and Recognitions

Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., Founding President of ASNEng, and an Associate Professor of Structural Engineering and Applied Mechanics, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT received following prestigious awards/recognitions in 2014:



### **ASCE ASD Outstanding Technical Contribution Award**

The Aerospace Division (ASD) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) bestowed upon Dr. Malla the prestigious *Outstanding Technical Contribution Award* at the ASCE Earth & Space 2014 Conference held in St. Louis, MO on October 27-29, 2014. *This award is given*

to an individual in recognition of distinguished achievements and “for contributing substantially to advancing the state of the art in aerospace engineering, sciences and technology, and space exploration and construction with application to civil engineering.”



Dr. Malla research interests and experiences are in the areas of Structural Engineering, applied/structural mechanics, finite element analysis, dynamics, and vibration of structures. His

research areas encompass structures on Earth, in Space, and on the Moon. He has more than 140 technical journal and conference articles, book chapters, technical reports, and other publications. In addition, he has edited 7 books, including conference proceedings and other special volumes publications, and has served as Guest Editor of the ASCE Journal of Aerospace Engineering, and Associate Editor of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets. He has served as General Chair or Technical Chairs of 4 nationally and internationally prominent and highly reputed conferences under the auspices of ASCE and AIAA. As a civil engineering faculty member, Dr. Malla has championed and significantly contributed to the multidisciplinary areas of research and education in the civil and aerospace engineering and technology transfer between these two fields of engineering for more than 3 decades. He has more than 50 full-length journal and conference articles on topics related to aerospace structural systems, including space station type orbital structure, Lunar structures/habitats, planetary drilling devices, solar sails, and space life support systems.

Dr. Malla’s research work has been funded by several federal, state and regional agencies and industry, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), U.S. Army, NCHRP and Safety IDEA programs of the National Academy of Sciences, U.S. DoT Federal Highway and Railroad Administration (FHWA and FRA), New England Transportation Consortium (NETC), Connecticut Department of Economic Development, NASA/Connecticut Space Grant Consortium, Honeybee Robotics Spacecraft Mechanism Corporation, Hamilton Sundstrand Space Systems International, Inc., eGen LLC, GM2 Associates, and Bentley Systems, Inc.

### Co-Editorship of ASCE Earth & Space 2014 Conference Proceedings

He also received the honor of serving as one the two editors of the book volume entitled “*Earth and Space 2014: Engineering for Extreme Environments.*” This is the Proceedings of the nationally and internationally prominent ASCE ASD Biennial International Conference on Engineering, Science, Construction and Operations in Challenging Environments (Earth & Space 2014 Conference) held in St. Louis, MO on October 27-29, 2014. The 728-page long proceedings volume contains peer-reviewed, full length papers presented at the conference and is published by ASCE, Reston, VA (SBN: 978-0-7844-7917-9; <https://www.asce.org/templates/publications-book-detail.aspx?id=16591>). He has also co-edited 4 previous Earth & Space Conference proceedings in 2004, 2006, 2010, and 2012. He served as Editor-in-Chief for the 2004 and 2006 proceedings.



### His Ph.D. Student Received Best Paper Award

To add to his significant scholarly recognition and fame, one of Dr. Malla’s Ph.D. students, Mr. Luis Vila, received *Student Best Paper Award* for the full-length and peer reviewed paper titled “*Longitudinal Impact Force on a Special Drill for Planetary Exploration*” that was co-authored with him and presented at the ASCE Earth & Space 2014 conference and published in its Proceedings.

## ASNEng Major Events in 2014 and 2015

### ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference at Tempe, AZ - June 21-22, 2014

The American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) and Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) held their 7th 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 including two invited keynote and one invited guest speakers. The keynote speakers were Bharat Raj Pahari, Ph.D., Dean of Institute of Engineering, (IOE), Tribhuvan University, Nepal and Gary Dirks, Ph.D., Director, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University. Govindasamy Tamizhmani, Ph.D., Director of Photovoltaic Reliability laboratory at Arizona State University and President of TUV Rheinland PTL, Tempe, AZ was the invited speaker.

### **ASNEng Annual General Membership Meeting: June 21, 2014**

American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) held its Annual Membership/Board of Directors meeting at its 7th Annual Conference in Tempe, AZ on June 21, 2014. The meeting was 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. The announcement of newly elected Officers and Board of Directors for the next 2 year term of 2014-2016 was also made.

### **ASNEng Involvement in Nepal Earthquake Disaster Relief**

The massive 7.8 magnitude Gorkha earthquake on April 25, followed by the 7.3 quake on May 12, and many more aftershocks has sadly caused 8,778 deaths, more than 22,000 injured and destruction of about half a million homes in Nepal. American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) has been actively involved in Nepal earthquake relief planning and execution since the day the event occurred.

1. ASNEng raised funds for Nepal Earthquake relief and assessment and reconstruction. The fund-raising efforts were also supported by the Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter of ASNEng and the Greater Houston Area Chapter of ASNEng.

2. During June-July 2015, the volunteer team of ASNEng, led by Mr. Ananta R. Baidya, P.E., Chair, Nepal Liaison Committee, was engaged in the evaluation of possibilities of contribution to Nepal after the devastating 2015 Gorkha-Nepal Earthquake. The team has been involved in various aspects of pre and post disaster involvements and has tried to determine the effectiveness of ASNEng contribution to causes after the earthquake. This effort, funded by ASNEng, has resulted in ASNEng's recognition as a resource in the United States for Nepal and stronger tie with Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) was established. Various members of ASNEng from USA and Canada also contributed to the post-earthquake assessments and studies by working on their earthquake related projects and through organizations such as Institute of Engineering (IOE) and National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET).



Ananta R. Baidya, Chairperson of ASNEng Nepal Liaison Committee giving a talk at Nepal Engineer Association (NEA) on “Pre-disaster Mitigation and Commentary on public safety as a result of the 2015 Gorkha-Nepal Earthquake”

3. ASNEng collaborated with Institute for Social and Environmental Research Nepal (ISER-N) to provide relief packages containing food and tarpaulin to Chhoprak and Kerabari VDCs in the Gorkha District of Nepal.



Distribution of relief materials in Gorkha by ISER-N

4. ASNEng has provided a financial assistance of \$3,350 to Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) to support the post-quake rapid assessment of buildings and infrastructure.

5. A team of engineers from Canadian Association of Earthquake Engineering (CAEE) under the leadership of Dr. Bishnu Pandey, a faculty member from the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Canada conducted the earthquake damage assessment in Nepal. Dr. Pandey is a member of the ASNEng Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

6. ASNEng is planning to support ANMF in a project building health posts in Nepal.

7. The primary focus of the papers in the upcoming ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference, August 29-30, 2015, New Jersey, NY, will be Nepal's recent earthquake recovery, reconstruction, and preparedness for future earthquakes.

### [ASNEng in Collaboration with ANMF and CAN-USA Published the Earthquake preparedness position paper](#)

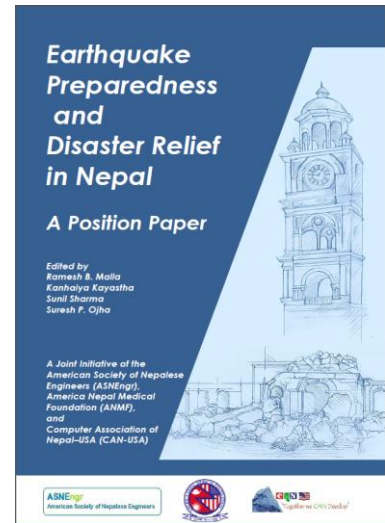
Prompted by the devastating Haiti earthquake of January 2010, members of the Nepali community living in the United States undertook a joint initiative, led by the three professional, non-profit organizations - to understand the

current state of earthquake preparedness in Nepal. The lead organizations are the American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng), America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) and the Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA).

This 110-page document titled "*Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal – A Position Paper.*" (ISBN 978-0-9909576-0-7)

The book outlines the challenges that Nepal will face, if and when, another large

magnitude earthquake strikes. It presents technical information on earthquake preparedness, mitigation, training, and rescue operations that will be needed before, during, and after a major earthquake. The suggestions and recommendations in this document are intended to be preliminary. They are divided into three main areas of concern in earthquake disaster mitigation: engineering, communication, and medical and public health. The book is edited by Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D. of ASNEng (Editor-in-Chief), Kanhaiya Kayastha, S.E., P.E. of ASNEng; Sunil Sharma, M.D. of ANMF; and Suresh Ojha, M.S. of CAN-USA. Dr. Malla, Founding President of ASNEng, also leads the joint initiative.



We hope that this position paper will create a pathway for implementation and initiate the necessary plans for establishing a coordinated mechanism to draw together the resources and efforts by public and private stakeholders both in Nepal and the U.S. We also hope that the information presented in this paper will help generate constructive and meaningful questions and discussions towards better preparedness and mitigation of earthquake-related hazards and tragic situations expected from major earthquakes.

We hope this position paper will contribute to needed discussions on future efforts of preparedness and

enhancement of the country's total earthquake resiliency program. Now there is a need to review the lessons learned in the areas of engineering, communications and medical care in the immediate response and recovery periods following this earthquake.

We are greatly saddened and grieved by the loss of life and property caused by this recent devastating earthquake. Our hearts and minds go to Nepal at this trying and difficult moment.

The position paper can be found at the following links:

[http://www.asnengr.org/earthquake\\_position\\_paper](http://www.asnengr.org/earthquake_position_paper)

[www.AmericaNepalMedicalFoundation.com](http://www.AmericaNepalMedicalFoundation.com)

<http://www.CAN-USA.org>



Dr. Rajendra K. Shrestha, ASNEng President, presenting a copy of the position paper to Nepali Ambassador to Malaysia H.E. Dr. Niranjan Man Singh Basnyat



Ananta R. Baidya, Chairperson of ASNEng Nepal Liaison Committee, presenting a copy of the position paper to UN Assistant Secretary - General Haoliang Xu



Kanhaiya Kayastha, ASNEng Fellow (Life) member, presenting a copy of the position paper book to the NRN - NCC of USA President Dr. Keshav Paudel and the global NRN -ICC Vice-president Mr. Bhawan Bhatta in Los Angeles, CA. on July 17, 2015.



Kanhaiya Kayastha, ASNEng Fellow (Life) member, presenting a copy of the position paper to H.E. Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki, Nepalese Ambassador to USA

### **ASNEng/CAN-USA Joint Conference at North Brunswick, NJ – 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.

## Notable Events

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### **The Greater Washington DC Chapter (GWDC) of American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng) Organized an interaction program**

Greater Washington DC (GWDC) chapter of ASNEng organized an interaction program on "Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal" on October 10, 2014 at Minerva Chantilly, VA. Three senior professionals from National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) attended this event. They were (1) Dr. Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director, (2) Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Deputy Executive Director; and (3) Mr. Shreeram Singh Basnet, Senior Journalist and a Member of NSET Management Board to the USA. The NSET is working for earthquake awareness and preparedness in Nepal to develop "Earthquake Safe Communities in Nepal by 2020".

### **GWDC Chapter of ASNEng Organized Engineer's night**

Greater Washington DC Chapter of American Society of Nepalese Engineers (GWDC-ASNEng) organized an "Engineers' Night 2015" on Saturday, February 14, 2015

at Bollywood Tikka Masala restaurant in Fairfax, Virginia. Over a hundred engineers and their families from DC Metro area participated in the event. The event provided an excellent opportunity for engineering students, engineers, scientists and closely related professionals and their families living and working in DC metro area to meet, greet and socialize within engineering community and their families. The program was jointly conducted by Mr. Mangal Maharjan secretary of the ASNEng GWDC Chapter and former Chapter president Thakur Dhakal. In the meantime, the raffle lotteries were drawn by Uttam Sedai and Santosh Dhakal. Chief of Transportation Engineering and Construction Division of Baltimore City and Senior Engineer Mr. Bimal Devkota addressed the event as a key speaker.

### **GWDC Chapter of ASNEng Organized a talk program**

The DC Chapter of American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng GWDC Chapter) organized a talk program on "Nepal Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction" on 20th of June 2015 at Patrick Henry Library in Vienna, VA. Mr. Thakur Dhakal, P.E., shared a summary "Earthquake preparedness and Disaster Relief in Nepal – a Position Paper" to the group. Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team volunteers Mr. Tom McLaughlin P.E., and Mr. Jon Tung, P.E., who were a part of rescue and recovery team sent by US government immediately after first earthquake on April 25, 2015, talked about "Nepal Earthquake Rescue Operation". The program was moderated by secretary of ASNEng – DC Metro Chapter, Mr. Mangal Maharjan. The QA/discussion session was moderated by Secretary of chapter, Mr. Dilli Neupane. Counselor from Nepalese Embassy in Washington DC. More than 30 engineers and professionals participated on this program.

### **Formation of the Greater Houston Area Chapter of ASNEng**

The ASNEng BOD unanimously provided full approval for the formation of the Greater Houston Area Chapter of ASNEng on June 12, 2015. The officials of this newly formed chapter of ASNEng are:



President: Rajendra Shrestha, P.E. (Pearland, TX)  
Vice-President: Subash Poudel, P.E.  
Secretary: Sanjay Basnet, P.E.  
Members: Janak Thapa, P.E.  
Pradeep Gautam, P.E.  
Jagannath Ghimire, P.E.  
Damodar Panyani, P.E.

### ASNEng President Dr. Shrestha felicitated in Malaysia

American Society of Nepalese Engineers President Dr. Rajendra K. Shrestha was felicitated at the Non-Resident Nepali Association Malaysia 4th Annual General Meeting on Aug. 22, 2015 held in Hotel Grand Continental, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Dr. Shrestha served in the three-member election committee which successfully accomplished the election of the Executive Committee for the 2015-2017 term for the Non-Resident Nepali Association National Coordination Committee of Malaysia.



ASNEng President (second from left in the picture) during felicitation program

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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>.*

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