

## **DETAIL CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**Welcome**

**to the**

**Thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng<sup>r</sup>)  
Annual Conference**

**“Creating resiliency and sustainability via Engineering & Technology  
Advancements”**

**Organized By**

**American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng<sup>r</sup>)**

**P. O. Box 1606**

**Centreville, VA 20122, USA**

**Email: [info@ASNEng.org](mailto:info@ASNEng.org) / Web: [www.ASNEng.org](http://www.ASNEng.org)**

**Venue**

**Online (<https://www.facebook.com/ASNEng>)**

**Date**

**Saturday, December 12 - Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**Conference Website**

**<https://www.asnengr.org/wp/events/13th-asnengr-annual-conference>**

## **WELCOME FROM CONFERENCE CHAIRS**

On behalf of the Conference Organizing Committee of the American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr), we would like to extend our greetings and warm welcome to you to the 13th ASNEngr Annual Conference being held virtually on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This conference has a unique theme of “Creating resiliency and sustainability via Engineering & Technology Advancements” with the principal objective of assembling faculty, engineers, scientists, students and other professionals from related areas together on a common platform for sharing and disseminating knowledge and experience with broader scientific and engineering communities.

The conference program covers a wide variety of engineering and scientific areas ranging from earthquake and flood resilience planning, infrastructures, energy and environmental issues to recent advances and innovation in engineering and technology. The 5 sessions on the first day include the Conference Opening with invited guest speaker, a Plenary Session with keynote speakers, and 3 technical oral presentation sessions. On the second day, there are 3 more oral presentations and an entrepreneurship panel. Each of these sessions will feature individual presentations and question-answer forum to facilitate sharing of knowledge and experience among fellow engineers, scientists and professionals. This year we are proud to have distinguished guests as His Excellency Dr. Arjun Karki, Nepalese Ambassador to the United States and Sanyukta Shrestha, President, Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK. We are also very proud to have 2 keynote lectures by (1) Prof. Dr. Shashidhar Ram Joshi, Dean, Institute of Engineering, TU, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal, and (2) Dr. Mahabir Pun, Chair, National Innovation Center (NIC), Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal. As invited speakers, we have (1) Binod Tiwari, Ph.D., Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Projects, Professor of Civil Engineering, California State University, Fullerton, (2) Sushil Adhikari, Ph.D., P.E., Alumni Professor, Director, Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts, Auburn University, (3) Surya N. Shrestha, Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET), Karyabinayak-2, Bhaisepati, Lalitpur, Nepal, and (4) Mandira Singh Shrestha, PhD, PE, Program Coordinator: Climate Services, Mountain Environment Regional Information System (MENRIS) International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. The presenters and participants come from a broad base, including academia, government agencies, international organization, and industries.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the authors/presenters who submitted their abstracts and are willing to share their research results and knowledge to the conference attendees. We believe that the conference will provide all participants ample opportunity to share their knowledge and experience in their pertinent areas and create a common discussion ground for the further enhancement of knowledge for the future development of technology for humankind. We would also like to thank the conference attendees for taking their valuable time in participating and supporting the conference. Our sincere thanks to all Conference Organizing Committee including our steering committee for their tireless effort and countless hours of voluntary service, and to the members of the Board of Directors of ASNEngr for their valuable suggestions and support.

Last but not least, we would like to express our deep appreciations to each and every distinguished invited guest and speakers in attendance, and all sponsors/donors for their generous support and contribution for the success of our 13th annual conference. We wish you all an enriching and memorable time at the conference.

*With warm regards,*



Sanjaya Gajurel, Ph.D.  
General Chair  
CWRU, Cleveland, OH



Raju Josee  
General Co-chair  
Okta Inc., VA



Nipesh Pradhananga, Ph.D., P.E.  
Technical Chair  
FIU, Miami, FL



Pratistha Pradhan Paudel, Ph.D., P.E.  
Technical Co-chair  
City of Houston, Houston, TX

**American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr)**

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**Overall Program Schedule At-A-Glance**

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	<b>Conference Opening</b>
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	<b>Guest Speakers</b>
9:30 AM – 9:40 AM	<i>Break</i>
9:40 AM – 11:40 AM	<b>Plenary Session: Keynote/Invited Speakers</b>
11:40 AM – 11:50 AM	<i>Break</i>
11:50 AM – 12:50 AM	<b>Technical Session I: Aftermath of the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake</b>
12:50 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Break</i>
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	<b>Technical Session II: Innovations in Electronics, Robotics and AI</b>
2:00 PM – 2:10 PM	<i>Break</i>
2:10 PM – 2:40 PM	<b>Technical Session III: Advances in Construction Methods and Technologies</b>

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<b>Technical Session IV: Infrastructure Management and Society</b>
10:00 AM – 10:10 PM	<i>Break</i>
10:10 AM – 11:10 AM	<b>Technical Session V: Novel Building Material and Design</b>
11:10 AM – 11:20 AM	<i>Break</i>
11:20 AM – 12:20 PM	<b>Technical Session VI: Water, Water Resources, and the Environment</b>
12:20 PM – 12:30 PM	<i>Break</i>
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	<b>Entrepreneurship Panel</b>
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM	<b>Conference Closure - Best Presentation Awards &amp; Closing Remarks</b>

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**Detail Conference Program Schedule**

***(Subject to change)***

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**

**Conference Opening**

**9:00 AM - 9:15 AM**

*Conference Opening, Welcome, Introduction of Invited Guests, and Overall Program Overview*  
by **Sanjaya Gajurel, Ph.D.**, Conference General Chair

*Conference Logistics*  
by **Raju Josee**, Conference General Co-Chair

*Conference Technical Program Overview*  
by **Nipesh Pradhananga, Ph.D., P.E.** Conference Technical Chair

*Overview about Entrepreneurship Panel*  
by **Pratistha Pradhan Paudel, Ph.D., P.E.** Conference Technical Co-chair

*ASNEngr Welcome and Organization Introduction*  
by **Thakur Dhakal, P.E.**, President, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr)

*ASNEngr Accomplishments/Vote of Thanks*  
by **Upendra L Karna, D.Eng., P.E.**, Immediate Past President, ASNEngr

*ASNEngr Outstanding Performance and Society Leadership Awards*  
by **Thakur Dhakal, P.E.**, President, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEngr)  
Outstanding Performance Award recipient Madan Baral, P.E., PMP and Society Leadership Award Recipient Dr. Upendra L. Karna, D.Eng., P.E

**Guest Speakers**

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM

*Session Chair: Thakur Dhakal, P.E., President, ASNEngr*

**His Excellency Dr. Arjun Karki, Chief Guest**, Nepali Ambassador to the United States of America, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki is a Nepali development practitioner who is currently Nepali Ambassador to the United States. He graduated from Tribhuvan University with a B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics in 1990, and subsequently completed M.Sc. in Management and Implementation of Development Projects at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in 1995, and a PhD entitled "The Politics of Poverty and Movements from Below in Nepal" from the University of East Anglia in 2001. He has championed the cause of democracy in the country and has worked towards promotion of human rights and sustainable development.



**Sanyukta Shrestha**, President, Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK (SONE UK), London, UK.

Mr. Shrestha has an engineering degree from Nepali Engineering College and graduated from London Metropolitan University in 2006. He is associated with many organizations such as Computer Engineer's Association of Nepal (Founding Executive, 2004), Pasa Puchah Guthi UK London (President, 2018-2020) and Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK (Chairperson, 2020). He has secured many awards including Best Student (Nepal Engineering College (2000)) and the first animated Movie maker of Nepal (Government of Nepal, 2016).

**Break**

9:30 AM – 9:40 AM

**Plenary Keynote Session**

9:40 AM – 11:40 AM

*Session Chair(s): Prof. Ramesh Malla, Ph.D., F. ASCE, Jagannath Ghimire, P.E.*

**Prof. Dr. Shashidhar Ram Joshi**, Dean, Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal

Dr. Shashidhar Ram Joshi is the Dean of Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk and full time Professor in Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering. He was a visiting Professor at South Asian University (SAARC University) in India for one year and a guest lecturer in Japan, Korea and Norway. He was also a research fellow in Osaka Sangyo University, Japan for one year. He received a PhD in Electronics and Computer Engineering from Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk, in 2007 with research works done in Japan, Norway and Nepal. He completed his masters degree from University of Calgary, Canada in 1992 and Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering with first class first gold medal from REC Surat, India in 1984.





**Dr. Mahabir Pun**, Chair, National Innovation Center (NIC), Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal

Dr. Pun is a teacher, social entrepreneur, and activist. Known for work in applying wireless technologies to develop remote areas of the Himalayas. Widely known as "Wireless Man" in Nepal. He is a widely known figure in Nepal, and his work has been recognized by the Ashoka Foundation, the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation, University of Nebraska, and Global Ideas Bank. He is a humanitarian whose work is inspiring many youths to return to their own country and serve it for its development.



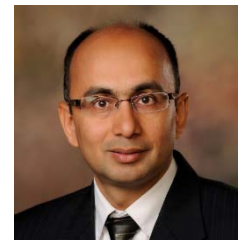
**Binod Tiwari, Ph.D., P.E.**, Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Projects, Professor of Civil Engineering, California State University, Fullerton, CA

Dr. Tiwari is the Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Projects at California State University, Fullerton and a licensed Professional Engineer (Civil) in California. He has over 17 years of experience in teaching and research at US Higher Education Institute including program administrator for civil and environmental engineering programs. He has also published over 300 research articles in book chapters, high impact peer review journals, geotechnical special publications, and peer reviewed conference proceedings in research pertinent to geotechnical engineering and natural hazard mitigation.



**Sushil Adhikari, Ph.D., P.E.**, Alumni Professor, Director, Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts, Auburn University, AL

Sushil Adhikari is a professor in the Biosystems Engineering Department and the director of the Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts at Auburn University. In addition to teaching, he conducts research related to biofuels and bioproducts, especially in the field of thermochemical conversion. Adhikari's research efforts focus on biomass gasification, pyrolysis, algae liquefaction and upgrading, anaerobic digestion (AD) and hydrogen production. He has published 120 peer-reviewed journal articles and eight book chapters and has been cited more than 8000 times. He was named in Thomas Reuters' report "The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds: 2014" and was recognized as the Alabama Distinguished Young Agricultural Engineer (2010). Adhikari received the ASABE (American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers) New Holland Young Researcher Award (2013).



**Surya N. Shrestha**, Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET), Karyabinayak-2, Bhaisepati, Lalitpur, Nepal

Surya Narayan Shrestha is the Executive Director and Senior Structural Engineer at the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) in Nepal. He serves as the program manager for the Nepal Earthquake Risk Management Program, focused on the safety of school buildings, building code implementation, and disaster preparedness planning and capacity. Mr. Shrestha has experience in earthquake response in Nepal, Indonesia, and Pakistan.



He  
has

**Dr. Mandira Singh Shrestha**, Programme Coordinator, Climate Services Services, ICIMOD, Nepal

Dr. Mandira Singh Shrestha is a Programme Coordinator of Climate Services initiative at ICIMOD. She has over 20 years of research experience that cover broad areas of climate services, water induced disaster risk reduction and water resources management. She is leading the transboundary flood risk reduction programmes, promoting dialogue and strengthening hydromet capacity in the region. Her research interests center on transboundary flood forecasting and monitoring, application of satellite-based products and end user engagement for reduced flood risks. Her current research focuses on localizing climate services for Agriculture and Tourism. She has coordinated the development of a web based regional flood information system in the Himalayan region where the countries are sharing real-time data and information for flood risk reduction thereby strengthening regional cooperation. Ms. Shrestha holds a Doctor of Engineering from the University of Kyoto, Japan and a Masters in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington, Seattle, USA.



## **Break**

**11:40 AM – 11:50 AM**

## **Technical Session I**

**11:50 AM – 12:50 PM**

*(Oral Presentation)*

**Session Title: *Aftermath of the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake***

**Session Chair(s): *Rajendra K Shrestha, PhD, Kishor Shrestha, Ph.D., P.E.***

*(Note: Presenter's name is underlined in a paper with multiple authors)*

***“A Case Study of Opportunities and Challenges on Modular Construction after April 2015 Earthquake in Nepal”***, by **Krishna P. Kisi Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX; ***Rujan Kayastha, B.S.C.E.***, Operation Manager, GreenTech Engineering and Builders Pvt. Ltd., Nepal and ***Kishor Shrestha, Ph.D.***, Assistant Professor, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

***“Analysis of Renovation Challenges after April 2015 Gorkha Earthquake”*** by **Krishna P. Kisi Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX; ***Rujan Kayastha, B.S.C.E.***, Operation Manager, GreenTech Engineering and Builders Pvt. Ltd., Nepal and ***Nipesh Pradhananga, Ph.D., P.E.***, Associate Professor, Florida International University, Miami FL.

“*Are Post-Disaster Reconstruction Operations Different from Regular Construction Operations?*” by S M Jamil Uddin, Graduate Research Assistant, North Carolina State and Nipesh Pradhananga, Ph.D. P.E., Associate Professor, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

“*Construction Workers Health and Safety during Post-Disaster Reconstruction: A Study in Bhaktapur, Nepal*” by S M Jamil Uddin, Graduate Research Assistant, North Carolina State and Nipesh Pradhananga, Ph.D. P.E., Associate Professor, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

**Break**

12:50 PM – 1:00 PM

**Technical Session II**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*(Oral Presentation)***Session Title: *Innovations in Electronics, Robotics and AI*****Session Chair(s): Madan Baral, P.E., PMP, Jiwan Ninglekhu, Ph.D.***(Note: Presenter's name is underlined in a paper with multiple authors)*

“*Lasers Enabling Modern Digital Photonics in Computing and Microwave Photonics in Radar System*” by Bikash Nakarmi, Full Professor and Shilong Pan, Full Professor, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China.

“*Artificial Intelligence and Robotics for Specialty Crop Agriculture*” by Manoj Karkee, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Washington State University, Prosser, WA.

“*Analysis of Solar Radiation Absorbed by Dome Habitat Structure on Lunar Surface*” by Sachin Tripathi, Ph.D. Student and Ramesh B. Malla, Ph.D., Professor, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

“*Societal Impacts of Data Science*” by Kiran Khanal, Shyam Adhikari and Ankur Sharma, Chicago Machine Learning Team, Chicago, IL.

**Break**

2:00 PM – 2:10 PM

**Technical Session III**

2:10 PM – 2:40 PM

*(Oral Presentation)***Session Title: *Advances in Construction Methods and Technologies*****Session Chair(s): Mangal Maharjan, Purna Dahal, P.E.***(Note: Presenter's name is underlined in a paper with multiple authors)*

“*An overview of BIM Benefits for Nepalese Construction Industry and Engineering Education*” by Sunil Suwal, Senior Lecturer, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland.

“*Real-Time Monitoring of Labor-Intensive Repetitive Tasks in a Construction Site Using Depth-sensing Camera*” by Sudip Subedi, PhD Candidate and Nipesh Pradhananga, Ph.D. P.E., Associate Professor, Florida International University, Miami, FL.



**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**Technical Session IV**

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

*(Oral Presentation)*

**Session Title: *Infrastructure Management and Society***

**Session Chair(s): *Shubha Adhikari, AICP, Srijan Adhikari P.E.***

*(Note: Presenter's name is underlined in a paper with multiple authors)*

***“Multidimensional Highway Construction Cost Indexes Using Dynamic Item Basket for South Dakota Department of Transportation”*** by ***K. Joseph Shrestha, Ph.D.***, Assistant Professor, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN and ***H. David Jeong, Ph.D.***, The James C. Smith CIAC Endowed Professor, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

***Focus Group Meetings' Finding: Effectiveness of the Current DUI Law in Rural Montana Community*** by ***Kishor Shrestha, Ph.D., P.E.***, Assistant Professor; ***Geeta Shrestha***, Office Assistant II, Washington State University, Pullman, WA and ***Krishna P. Kisi, Ph.D., P.E.***, Assistant Professor, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

***“Computational Methods for Integrating Tacit and Explicit Knowledge for the Preliminary Design of Finnish Road Bridges”***, by ***Mahesh Karki***, Structural Engineer, Sweco Finland Oy, Helsinki Finland.

**Break**

**10:00 AM – 10:10 AM**

**Technical Session V**

**10:10 AM – 11:10 AM**

*(Oral Presentation)*

**Session Title: *Novel Building Material and Design***

**Session Chair(s): *Ambika P. Adhikari, PhD, AICP, Krishna Kisi, Ph.D., P.E.***

*(Note: Presenter's name is underlined in a paper with multiple authors)*

***“Extending Service Life of The Bridge beyond 100 years”*** by ***Purna Dahal, P.E.***, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, Virginia Department of transportation (VDOT), VA.

***“Environmental Assessment of Quarry Rock Dust Waste: An Alternative material for Sand and Cement”*** by ***Piyush Pradhananga***, Graduate Assistant and ***Mohamed ElZomor, Ph.D.***, Assistant Professor, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

***“Progress in Finite Element Simulation for Graded Elements”*** by ***Asmita Rokaya***, Structural Engineer, Windsor CT and ***Jeongho Kim***, Professor, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

**Break**

**11:10 AM – 11:20 AM**

**Technical Session VI**

11:20 AM – 12:20 PM

*(Oral Presentation)***Session Title: *Water, Water Resources, and the Environment*****Session Chair(s): *Govinda Karki, PhD, P.E., Narayan Pokhrel, P.Eng****(Note: Presenter's name is underlined in a paper with multiple authors)*

***"Optimal Installation of Gravitational Water Vortex Power Plant: A Case Study in Nepal"*** by ***Rabin Dhakal***, PhD Student, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

***"Minimizing the Errors in Prediction of Water Levels using Kriging Technique in Residuals of the Groundwater Model (MODFLOW)"*** by ***Alireza Asadi***, PhD Student and ***Kushal Adhikari***, PhD Candidate, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

***"Pond-In-Pond: An Alternative Treatment System for Creating Resiliency and Sustainability in Water Supply through Reuse and Reclamation"*** by ***Kushal Adhikari***, PhD Candidate and ***Clifford B. Fedler***, Professor, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

***"A Review on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Table During Rainfall"*** by ***Subash Gupta***, Student and ***Sangam Acharya***, Student, Paschimanchal Campus, Pokhara, Nepal.

**Break**

12:20 PM – 12:30 PM

**Entrepreneurship Panel**

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

**Moderators: *Pratistha Pradhan Poudel, PhD, P.E. and Surya Thapa, P.E.****(Details in the next page)***Conference Closure**

1:30 PM – 1:45 PM

***Best Presentation Awards and Closing Remarks*** by ***Sanjaya Gajurel, Ph.D.***, Conference General Chair

**Entrepreneurship Panelist December 13 (Sunday) 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM****Panelists****K&A Engineering Consulting P.C.**  
**Purna Kharel, PE,**  
**President & CEO**445 Hamilton Ave,  
Suite 406  
White Plains, NY  
(914) 607-7115[purna.kharel@kapower.us](mailto:purna.kharel@kapower.us)[www.kapower.us](http://www.kapower.us)**SSP Engineering & Consulting**  
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Katy, TX 77494  
(346) 800 4343[info@fifengineering.com](mailto:info@fifengineering.com)<https://fifengineering.com/>**Stupa International LLC**  
**Prakash Adhikari**Executive Director  
23400 Kingsland Blvd,  
Unit:7304  
Katy, TX,77494

(612) 860-4050

[prakash@stupaintl.com](mailto:prakash@stupaintl.com)[www.stupaintl.com](http://www.stupaintl.com)**Hamro Patro**  
**Shankar Uprety, CEO**Sanfrancisco, CA  
(781) 786-1569[shankaruprety@hamropatro.co](mailto:shankaruprety@hamropatro.co)[m](http://m)[www.hamropatro.com](http://www.hamropatro.com)**SK & D Contracting**  
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(443) 621-0477[Kul.acharya@gmail.com](mailto:Kul.acharya@gmail.com)**Moderators****Pratistha Pradhan, PE**  
**Supervising Engineer**  
**City of Houston**P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, TX 77251**Surya Thapa, PE**  
**Geotechnical Manager**  
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[www.amaengineers.com](http://www.amaengineers.com)



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



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(833)-782-7165/ 678-861-0040  
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5555 Canal Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44125  
(216) 403-4354  
[surya.thapa@intertek.com](mailto:surya.thapa@intertek.com)  
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**U & S Engineers, P.C.****Dr. Upendra L. Karna, Partner**2 Milkhouse Lane  
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(609) 397-0959  
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(713) 366-6205  
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