

First Circular

First Himalayan Engineering Geological Congress (HEGC-I)

**“Engineering Geology and Geotechniques for
Developing Countries”**

**12-13 May 2019
Kathmandu, Nepal**



Organized by

**Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists (NSEG)
in association with
Himalaya Conservation Group Nepal (HCG)**

Background

Himalaya is one of the most active and fragile mountain chains in the world but it is also the youngest and the highest mountain range on the Earth, which extends over a length of about 2400 km. It is the home to millions of people of Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bhutan and other South Asian countries. Every year, especially during the summer monsoon period, landslides and related natural disaster events claim many lives and destroy property, infrastructure and the environment of the Himalayas. The gap in practices of engineering geological and geotechnical studies between developed and developing nations are immeasurable. Many developing countries do not adequately consider proper engineering geological and geotechnical issues in infrastructure developments. Himalayan region also lacks proper engineering geological study guidelines for infrastructure development despite having established various national level organizations as well as producing engineering geologists through a university graduate course.

It is high time for developing countries to understand the role of the engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers when considering construction and planning of engineering projects. A detailed and precise knowledge of engineering geology and geotechniques is an essential part of construction projects and geohazard analyses. In the Himalaya as well as developing countries, geologists and engineering geologists are still limited to mine and rock sciences. It is hard to convince governmental agencies that the engineering geologist and geotechnical engineers have vital role in managing geo-hazards along with civil engineering designs.



With these understandings, Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists (NSEG) have planned to conduct its First Himalayan Engineering Geological Congress (HEGC-I) on the major theme: "Engineering Geology and Geotechniques for Developing Countries". This kind of international congress has been an instrumental forum for the advancement of Engineering Geology and Geotechniques in developing countries. Engineering Geologists, Geoscientists, Geotechnical Engineers, Civil Engineers, Structural Engineers Architects/Urban Planners, Disaster Experts from various disciplines around the globe can contribute and can be benefited from each other during the HEGC-I. The forthcoming event is going to enhance the geo-engineering knowledge, its mitigation and countermeasures for the disaster management in developing countries. Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists has received an overwhelming response from geoscientists and geo-engineers around the world. So, this event will be another milestone in the history of Himalayan Engineering Geological and Geotechnical studies and discussion forums. This first circular issue will provide

important information about the First Himalayan Engineering Geological Congress (HEGC-I).

Registration is now open through the congress website, all the geoscientists and engineers working in the field of Engineering Geology, Geotechniques and related integrated disciplines are kindly requested to submit their registration and presentation abstract within the stated deadline. Your kind cooperation in this regard will greatly help the organizers to plan and execute this important event successfully. ONLY online registration will be acceptable.



Symposium Venue

The HEGC-I will be held in capital city of Nepal - Kathmandu. With an estimated population of about three million, the city of Kathmandu represents as the biggest city in Nepal. At an average altitude of 1350 metres, the Kathmandu Valley ground is ancient lake sediment that at its deepest point measures some 600 meters in some places. All the major events of the HEGC-I will be held in Kathmandu, while the field excursions will be held in various locations of Nepal.



Symposium Format

Following the international congress formats, thematic oral and poster sessions have been planned within a single venue. Besides, booths for exhibiting advanced technologies and R and D methodologies are highly encouraged inside the premises of the congress venue.

Congress Excursions

To provide an opportunity particularly to all international participants, the congress has been planned to include two field programs as follows:

2019.05.11: Pre-conference tour

Ex-1: A full day Kathmandu Valley tour to explore ground response and related damages during the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake



2019.05.14-16: Post-conference tour

Ex-2: Engineering Geology and Geotechnical Characteristics of Kathmandu-Pokhara area (three days)

Details of all excursions will be given in second circular.



Conference Plan

11 May 2019 (Sat):	Pre-conference excursions
12 May 2019 (Sun):	Inaugural program followed by technical sessions and Welcome Reception
13 May 2019 (Mon):	Technical Sessions
14-16 May 2019:	Post-conference Excursion

Important Dates

- 10 September 2018: Congress 1st circular and initiation of abstract submission (obligatory online submission)
- 15 November 2018: Congress 2nd circular and notification of accepted abstract begins.
- 15 December 2018: "Early Bird" registrations and payment of registration fees begins.
- 01 February 2019: End of "Early Bird" registration and standard registrations open
- 01 April 2019: End of abstract submission
- 15 April 2019: Final notification of accepted abstract
- 07 May 2019: Congress final circular and standard registration closes
- 10 May 2019: Congress onsite registration and full payment of registration fee

Full papers will be published in the Journal of Low Land Technology after peer review process and will be available on 1 January 2020.

Registration

All interested participants are requested to fill registration form available in the conference website. The details of registration fee are enlisted below. The congress organizing committee accept both online payment and bank transfer system.

Category	Timeline	
	15 Dec 2018- 01 Feb 2019, "Early Bird" Fee	02 Feb 2019 – 10 May 15, 2019
Foreign participants	US\$ 400	US\$ 450
Accompanying persons of foreign participants	US\$ 200	US\$ 250
Foreign students	US\$ 175	US\$ 200
Participants from SAARC nations	US\$ 250	US\$ 300
Accompanying persons of participants from SAARC nations	US\$ 150	US\$ 200
Students from SAARC nations	US\$ 125	US\$ 150
Nepalese Participant (NSEG non-member)	NRs. 10,000	NRs. 10,000
Nepalese Participant (NSEG member)	NRs. 6,000	NRs. 6,000
Pre-Congress Excursion, Ex -1	US\$ 150	US\$ 150
Post-Conference Excursion, Ex- 2	US\$ 400	US\$ 400

Registration fee will cover access to all presentation sessions, a copy of abstract volume, one dinner, conference lunches, and tea/coffee during the breaks. It does not cover the cost of other dinners and hotel accommodations. Excursion fee covers travel costs, all dinners, all lunches and hotel accommodations in Pokhara.

Conference Themes

Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists has planned for the main theme of the congress as "Engineering Geology and Geotechniques for Developing Countries". Sub-themes of the congress include:

1. Engineering Geology for Sustainable Development
2. Neotectonics
3. Landslides
4. Geohazards in Developing Countries
5. Geotechnical and Geo-Environmental Engineering
6. Water and Environmental Engineering
7. Urban Geology, Urban Planning and Management
8. Landfill engineering and solid waste management
9. Climate change and related geopolitics
10. Engineering Hydrogeology and Management
11. Tunneling and Role of Rock Mechanics in Developing Countries

12. Remote Sensing and Geodesy
13. Seismic Hazards, Earthquake Engineering and Structural Analysis
14. Consequences of Geo-Disasters and Disaster Risk Management
15. Dimension Stones, Aggregates and Quarry Sites
16. The 2015 Gorkha Earthquake

Climate

Climate in Kathmandu at the beginning of May is pleasant. Mornings and evenings are rarely cold and the day time is warm. It is advised that the participants bring summer clothes.

Passport and Visa Requirement

All the foreign participants are advised to contact the Nepalese Embassy or Consulate in their respective countries to get visa for entering into Nepal. They must have valid passport and Visa to enter into Nepal. Visa can also be obtained in the Tribhuvan International Airport (Kathmandu) on arrival. For those of you planning to acquire a visa upon arrival at the airport, please bring with you two passport-sized photographs and US\$25 cash for the visa fee.

Currency

US Dollar, Canadian Dollar, British Pound, Euro, Australian Dollar, Japanese Yen, Singapore Dollar, Indian Rupee and Chinese Yuan can be exchanged in the banks, Star Hotels, and authorized Money Changer.

Organizers

Lead Organizers: Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists (NSEG) in association with Himalaya Conservation Group Nepal (HCG)

Supporting National Partners (Proposed):

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)
Nepal Geotechnical Society
Himalayan Landslide Society
Nepal Landslide Society
Nepal Society for Rock Mechanics
Geomorphological Society of Nepal

Supporting International Partners

Kasetsart University, Thailand
Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand
Association of Soft Ground Technology (ASGT), Japan
AECOM, UK
Mod Chana Phai Foundation, Thailand
International Consortium on Geodisaster Reduction (ICGdR), Japan

Supporting International Partners (to be confirmed):

International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG)
Japan Society of Engineering Geology
Indian Society of Engineering Geology
International Association of Lowland Technology (IALT)
AECOM, USA
PBS Thai Television

Organizing Committee

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Convener:	Dr. Ranjan Kumar Dahal
Co-convener:	Dr. Kumud Raj Kafle
Co-convener:	Dr. Suman Manandhar
Conference Secretariat:	Ms. Chandani Bhandari

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