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. Terai Plain (Plain Area), Kathmandu Valley and Dun Valleys have been characterized with huge thickness of mountain fed deposits carried by river/wind at high gradient and formed at low lying area which have reflected similar to Lowland Problems. Furthermore, Kathmandu Valley is subject to rapid, unplanned city and urban planning on huge thickness of more than 600 m thick lacustrine deposit, forming a typical characteristic of lowland despite of existing at 1300 m above mean sea level. 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 geohazards along with civil engineering designs such as dams, bridges, roads, mines, quarry sites, high rise buildings together with residential developments and urban planning, water resources management and water related disasters as well as waste disposal and waste water treatment. Besides, Gorkha-Earthquake in April 2015 has also released very serious issues on social and disaster risk management sector. With these understandings, Himalaya Conservation Group Nepal (HCG) and Ministry of Home Affairs (Government of Nepal) have planned to organize First Himalayan Engineering Geological Congress (HEGC-I) on the major theme: “Engineering Geology and Geotechniques for Developing Countries” in association with Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists (NSEG). The main aim of this congress is to unite all Geoscientists, Civil Engineers, City/Urban Planners, Engineering Geologists, Geoscientists, Disaster Experts, Social Welfare Researchers and Professionals in a single platform to share and give exact solutions to the global society through transferring knowledge and skills from the from highland/mountain to lowland/low lying areas and vice versa.

This kind of international congress always provides wide range of advancement in the Engineering Geology and Geotechniques for disaster risk management 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. Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Himalaya Conservation Group and 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, disaster risk management and discussion forums. This second 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, engineers working in the field of engineering geology, geotechniques, geodisasters, urban planners, disaster risk management, 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.

Organized by

Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Government of Nepal
Himalaya Conservation Group Nepal (HCG)
Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists (NSEG)
Congress 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 full papers will be published in the Lowland Technology International Journal after peer review process and will be available sequentially from 1 January 2020 onwards on the basis of acceptance in chronological orders. Abstract (max 500 words) can only be submitted through online https://nseg.org.np/hegc-i-online-registration/.

Congress Excursions

The congress has been planned to include two field programs as follows.

Pre-congress tour

2019.05.11
Ex-1: A full day Kathmandu Valley tour to explore ground response and related damages during the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake
2019/05/11, 8:00 AM: Departure from Hotel
2019/05/11, 9:00 AM: Arrival at Changunarayan Hills, Observation of Geomorphological settings of The Chaguunarayan Hill and Kathmandu valley.
2019/05/11, 11:00 AM: Arrival at Bhaktapur City. Observation of ongoing earthquake reconstruction works in heritage site. Evaluation of Nyatapola temple which was survived in the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake.
2019/05/11, 12:00 AM: Typical Nepali style lunch at Bhaktapur Darbar Square area.
2019/05/11, 2:15 PM: Arrival at Swayambhu Hill. Observation of earthquake reconstruction works and effects of creep landslide in and around Swayambhu Hill. Evaluation of engineering geological settings of World Heritage site.
2019/05/11, 4:00 PM: Arrival at Bagdol, Lalitpur and observation of liquefaction area during the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake.
2019/05/11, 6:30 PM: Arrival at Hotel Radisson.

Excursion coordinator: Dr. Suman Manandhar

Congress Plan

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

Important Dates

15 December 2018
“Early Bird” registrations and payment of registration fees begins.
01 March 2019
End of “Early Bird” registration.
15 April 2019
End of abstract submission.
07 May 2019
Congress final circular.
10 May 2019
Congress onsite registration.

Post-congress tour

2019.05.14-16
Ex-2: Engineering Geology and Geotechnical Characteristics of Kathmandu-Pokhara area (three days)
Excursion two (Ex-2) is basically a field excursion tour on the first day and partly on second day. Kathmandu-Pokhara roadway is about 200 km, but in Nepal it takes about six hours to travel this distance at an average speed of 40 km/h. So, on the first day, we will see a few landslide sites on the way to Pokhara, and on the second day, we will go to an area in Pokhara valley and observe geology of the Pokhara valley. In Pokhara, especially in the morning time, we can see marvelous panoramic view of the Annapurna Range of the Himalaya, and also take a pleasure flight on an ultralight plane for 30 minutes to one hour. You may stay longer in Pokhara if you wish, but you will have to notify us of your plan so that we can book your return air ticket to Kathmandu appropriately. The schedule basically is as follows.

Day 1
2019/05/14, 08:00 AM: Depart from the symposium venue hotel at Kathmandu (Hotel Radisson), we will see few landslide sites in a stretch of about 60 km, after about 40 km west of Kathmandu
2019/05/14, 1:00 PM: Lunch (Riverside Spring Resort, Kurintar, about 90 km from Kathmandu)
2019/05/14, 2:00 PM: Head towards Pokhara and observations of few sites of mitigation
2019/05/15, 05:30 PM: Arrival back to Hotel
2019/05/15, 09:30 AM: Depart to observe geology of the Pokhara valley. In Pokhara, we will see a few landslide sites on the way to Pokhara and on the second day, we will go to an area in Pokhara valley and observe geology of the Pokhara valley. In Pokhara, especially in the morning time, we can see marvelous panoramic view of the Annapurna Range of the Himalaya, and also take a pleasure flight on an ultralight plane for 30 minutes to one hour. You may stay longer in Pokhara if you wish, but you will have to notify us of your plan so that we can book your return air ticket to Kathmandu appropriately. The schedule basically is as follows.

Day 2
2019/05/15, 7:00AM to 09:00 AM: Free time and breakfast in the Hotel
2019/05/15, 09:30 AM Depart to observe engineering geology of Pokhara valley; in and around Pokhara valley. Four to six sites will be visited. Nepali Style Lunch will be served at nearby restaurant.
2019/05/16, 05:30 PM Arrival back to Hotel and free time.

Day 3
2019/05/16, 6:00 AM Arrival at World Peace Pagoda and observation of Annapurna Range
2019/05/16, 8:00 AM Arrival at Hotel and breakfast
2019/05/16, 10:00 AM Return to Kathmandu.

Excursion coordinator: Dr. Ranjan Kumar Dahal

Abstract submission deadline: 15 April 2019

For abstract submission, visit: https://nseg.org.np/hegc-i-online-registration/
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.

Invitation Letters
The congress secretariat will be very happy to send Invitation Letter if you need for your official use and VISA application. Please send email to rkdahal@gmail.com for Invitation Letter.

Passport and Visa Requirements
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 one passport-sized photograph and US$ 25 cash for the visa fee. Gratis Visa is available for SAARC nationals visiting Nepal since 2014. We request you to claim Gratis Visa if it is applicable to you.

Congress Themes
The organizing team has planned for the main theme of the congress as “Engineering Geology and Geotechniques for Developing Countries”. Sub-themes of the congress include:

- **Engineering Geology for Sustainable Development**
- **Engineering Geological Modeling**
- **Case Studies for Engineering Geological Investigation**
- **New Technology and Equipment for Engineering Geology**
- **Geoparks and Disaster Museums for Sustainable Development**
- **Neotectonics**
- **Active Fault and associated Earthquakes**
- **Himalayan Tectonics**
- **Crustal Dynamics and Recent Earthquake Sources**
- **Landslides**
- **Landslides, Debris Flows, and Rock Fall**
- **Landslide Hazard and Risk Evaluation**
- **Landslide Risk Reduction**
- **Slope Stability**
- **Urbanization on Mountain Slopes**
- **Rock Slope Failure**
- **Snow and Debris Avalanche**
- **Geohazards in Developing Countries**
- **Flood Hazards**
- **Volcanic Hazards**
- **Tsunami Hazards**
- **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**
- **Geotechnical and Geo-Environmental Engineering**
- **Foundation Engineering**
- **Ground Improvement Techniques**
- **Soft Ground Treatments**
- **Transportation Geotechniques**
- **Earth Retaining Structures**
- **Stability Analyses**
- **Physical Properties of Soils**
- **Physico-chemical Environment of Soils**
- **Geotechnical Modeling**
- **Uses of Geopolymers in Geotech and Geo-Environment**
- **Geo-Environmental Issues**
- **Waste Disposal Issues**
- **Water and Environmental Engineering**
- **Water Resources and Watershed Management**
- **Wastewater Treatment and Water Purification**
- **Water Pollution in River, Lake and Coastal Area**
- **Tunneling and Role of Rock Mechanics in Developing Countries**
- **Hard rock tunneling Issues and Development**
- **Soft ground Tunneling Issues and Development**
- **Rock Mechanics and Behaviors of Discontinuities in Hard Terrain**

- **Urban Geology, Urban Planning and Management**
- **Environmental Assessment for Urban Development**
- **Urban Design and Development Planning**
- **Transportation Planning for Sustainable Development**
- **Solid Waste Management for Urban Areas**
- **Engineering Hydrogeology and Management**
- **Groundwater Management**
- **Groundwater and Land Subsidence**
- **Groundwater Monitoring and Restoration**
- **Fractured Rock Hydrology**
- **Remote Sensing and Geodesy**
- **Remote Sensing and Geodesy in Geological Applications**
- **Remote Sensing and Geodesy in Geotech/Geo-Environment**
- **Remote Sensing and Geodesy in Water/Coastal Management**
- **Remote Sensing and Geodesy in Urban Planning and Waste Management**
- **Seismic Hazards, Earthquake Engineering and Structural Analysis**
- **Engineering Geological and Geotechnical Consequences**
- **Earthquake Engineering and Ground Response**
- **Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics**
- **Retrofitting Structures**
- **Structural Damages and Fatigues in Structures**
- **Future of Himalayan Earthquake**
- **Earthquake-Induced Landslide**
- **Seismic hazard analysis**
- **Earthquake Safe Buildings in Developing Countries**
- **Consequences of Geo-Disasters and Disaster Risk Management**
- **Seismic consequences in infrastructure**
- **Seismic consequences in Social Welfare and Mental Trauma**
- **Effects of Flooding/Tsunami/Storm in Infrastructures**
- **Volcanic Disasters and Management**
- **Landslide Risk Management**
- **Policy and Implementation for Disaster Preparedness, Response, Shelter and Recovery**
- **Disaster Risk Reduction, Risk Resilience and Disaster Management**
- **Dimension Stones and Quarry Sites**
- **Reserves and Utilization of Dimension Stones**
- **Construction materials and aggregates for developing countries**
- **Disposal of Mine Wastes and Mine Tail**
- **Climate Change and Related Geopolitics**
- **Landfill Engineering and Solid Waste Management**
- **Geoethics in Engineering Geology: Doing the right thing while managing the geological environment**
- **The 2015 Gorkha Earthquake**

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.

For abstract submission: [https://nseg.org.np/hegc-i/online-registration/](https://nseg.org.np/hegc-i/online-registration/)
IAEG defines “Engineering Geology” as “the science devoted to the investigation, study and solution of the engineering and environmental problems which may arise as the result of the interaction between geology and the works and activities of man as well as to the prediction and of the development of measures for prevention or remediation of geological hazards”. This definition implies evident ethical and social implications in geo-engineering research and practice. In fact, the interaction man-Earth system produces surely modifications in natural dynamics and equilibria, so managing the natural/geological environment requires great responsibilities by scientists, practitioners and industry in order to minimize the impact on ecosystems, to use geo-resources prudently, to protect the geoheritage and geodiversity, to respect local populations and their cultures. In addition, engineering geology is a fundamental discipline to help society to face natural hazards, to reduce geo-risks and to improve the societal resilience, through accurate scientific studies and effective geoengineering design. Geotechnology campaigns and communication to population should be considered as fundamental collateral activities and a real social duty of every scientific activity. This session will collect abstracts discussing ethical and social aspects in engineering geology, from theoretical to practical issues, including case-studies. This session is co-sponsored by IAPG – International Association for Promoting Geothics (http://www.geothics.org).

IAEG Special Session
Geothics in engineering geology: doing the right thing while managing the geological environment

Congress Venue
The HEGC-I will take place in Kathmandu, an important historic city and the capital of Nepal. With an estimated population of about four million, Kathmandu is the largest metropolis in Nepal. Lalitpur and Bhaktapur are neighboring cities of Kathmandu and all of them are located within the Kathmandu Valley. The Kathmandu Valley has historically important cultural monuments that attract millions of international and domestic tourists every year. At an average altitude of 1300 m, the Kathmandu Valley is filled up with ancient lake sediments that at their deepest point are about 550 m thick. All the major events of HEGC-I will be held in Kathmandu, while the field excursions will be held in various parts of the Nepal. The two days congress will be held in Hotel Radisson, Lazimpat Kathmandu, Nepal. For detail about venue hotel, visit https://www.radisson.com/kathmandu-hotel-np/nepkath.

Keynote Speakers
Following Honorary NSEG Keynote Lectures are already confirmed in HEGC-I.

**Keynote 1:** Successful Applications of Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) with Metallic and Polymer Reinforcements for Mitigations of Landslides and Soil Erosion.

Prof. Dr. Jinchun Chai
Professor (Geotechnical Engineering) Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Saga University, Japan

**Keynote 2:** Estimating Engineering Properties of Soil from Piezocone Test Results.

Prof. Dr. Shuichi Hasegawa
Professor and Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Design, Kagawa University, Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan

**Keynote 3:** Engineering Geology of the Himalaya

Abstract submission deadline: 15 April 2019

Second Circular
First Himalayan Engineering Geological Congress (HEGC-I)

Organizing Committee

**Organizers:**
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal (MoHA)
Himalaya Conservation Group Nepal (HCG)
Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists (NSEG)

**Supporting National Partners:**
Nepal Academy of Science and Technology
Nepal Geotechnical Society
Himalayan Landslide Society
Nepal Landslide Society
Nepal Society for Rock Mechanics
Global Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies

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Co-convener: Dr. Kumud Majhi
Co-speaker: Dr. Suttisak Soralump
Congress Secretariat: Ms. Chandi Bhandari

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Mr. Roman Gantawa
Mr. Bikash Phuyal
Mr. Ujjwal Kumar Raghubanshi
Mr. Harishchandra Budhathoki

Prof. Dr. Suksum Horpibulsak
Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand

**Keynote 4:** Stabilization of Marginal Lateritic Soil Using Melamine Debris for Sustainable Geotechnical Applications

Prof. Dr. Hemanta Hazarika
Kurush University, Japan

**Keynote 5:** Earthquake Induced Landslides in Gentle Slopes - Lessons Learned from the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake

Prof. Dr. Takenori Hino
Saga University, Japan

**Keynote 6:** Effects of recent climate change and earthquake disaster on the soil structure of the ground

Prof. Dr. Nobufu Mishima
Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Saga University, Japan

**Keynote 7:** ICT-based study for community development in a historic town

Dr. Som Nath Sapkota
Director General, Department of Mines and Geology, Ministry of Industry, Government of Nepal, Lalichaur, Kathmandu, Nepal

**Keynote 8:** Seismotectonics of the Himalayan Region – recent understanding and research progress

Dr. Suttisak Soralump
Kaetsart University, Thailand

**Keynote 9:** Innovative Strategy for Landslide and Earthquake Mitigation

Dr. Nguyen Cao Don
Water Resources Institute, Vietnam

**Keynote 10:** Land subsidence in the Lower Mekong River Delta

Keynote 8: Seismotectonics of the Himalayan Region – recent understanding and research progress

Keynote 9: Innovative Strategy for Landslide and Earthquake Mitigation

Keynote 10: Land subsidence in the Lower Mekong River Delta

Second Circular
First Himalayan Engineering Geological Congress (HEGC-I)
Supporting International Partners:

- Japan Society of Engineering Geology
- International Consortium on Geodisaster Reduction (ICGdR)
- Indian Society of Engineering Geology
- International Association of Lowland Technology (IALT)
- AECOM, USA, UK
- Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand
- Association of Soft Ground Technology (ASGT), Japan
- Mod Chana Phai Foundation, Thailand

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Congress Web:
www.nseg.org.np

Abstract submission deadline: 15 April 2019
First Himalayan Engineering Geological Congress (HEGC-I)

For abstract submission, visit:
https://nseg.org.np/hegc-i/online-registration/

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Hotel reservation
Hotel Radisson is providing special discount in reservation for congress participants. Please contact sales manager for detail.

Ms. Shital Baniya
Associate Director of Sales
Hotel Radisson

Conference title: HEGC

Cell: + 977 9851063968

Email: sbaniya@radkat.com.np
For another hotel reservation, please contact: rkdahal@gmail.com and geosuman27@gmail.com

The venue, Hotel Radisson, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal