SONEUK Conference on
Infrastructure Development in Nepal
Saturday 18th February 2017
London, United Kingdom

Conference Report

1. Summary

SONEUK organised a Conference on Infrastructure Development in Nepal on 18th February 2017 in London (the programme is given in Appendix A). The conference included presentations covering different engineering disciplines relevant to the infrastructure development in Nepal. The event was attended by 56 participants including 9 invited guests and 47 SONEUK members. A list of participants is given in Annex B. The conference was divided into three sessions: Session 1: Inaugural Session, Session 2: Technical session and Session3: Plenary session.

Session 1: Inaugural session

Session 1 was chaired by Ghanashyam Poudyal (SONEUK's President). The inaugural was chaired by Ghanashyam Poudyal (SONEUK's President). The inaugural session was started with the welcome speech by by Shailendra Shrestha (SONEUK's General Secretary) who invited the Chief Guest Mr Ram Chandra Poudel (MP and Senior Political Leader of Nepal) to inaugurate the conference. Mr Ram Chandra Poudel then inaugurated the conference in a traditional Nepalese way. Introducing the conference, Dr Birendra Shrestha (Coordinator of the Conference Organising Committee) briefed the aims of the conference. He also outlined the programme of the day. This was followed by Ghanashyam Poudyal's presentation detailing the various activities that SONEUK undertaking to fulfil its objectives.

The Nepalese Ambassador to the UK Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi delivered his speech as a special guest of the conference. In his speech, he appreciated SONEUK's effort in organising such an event and expressed his willingness to extend Embassy's support to organise such event in the future. Ram Chandra Poudel, the chief guest, in his speech expressed his happiness to be involved in such an event where Nepalese engineers outside the country are thinking about Nepal in a professionally organised way. He urged the engineers residing outside the country to bring back their knowledge and skills to Nepal for the prosperity and development of the country. The session was closed with a vote of thanks by the session chair Ghanashyam Poudyal who thanked all the guests and participants for their presence and participation in the conference.

Session 2: Technical session

This session was chaired by Dr Binod Lal Amatya (Consulting Civil Engineer, CH2M). In the session, there were one Keynote speech and five technical presentations as follows:

- Keynote speech - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Smart Technologies for monitoring and operation of infrastructure in smart cities - *Professor Keshav Dahal*, Leader of the Artificial Intelligence, Visual Communication and Networks (AVCN) Research Centre, University of the West of Scotland, Paisley
- Role of ICT in Economic development of Nepal: Trend, challenges, and opportunity - *Hari Neupane*
- Project Completion (Under Budget / Before time): A diagnostic analysis in the context of Nepal's past practise - *Sachida Chaturbedi*
- Open knowledge Network and its role in Infrastructure Development - *Anjani Phuyal*

- Evaluation and Solution of Energy Crisis in Nepal - *Ramhari Poudyal*
- Saving human life and making work place safer while doing construction as part of infrastructure development of Nepal - *Raj Kumar Tripathi*

The abstracts of the presentations are given in Annex C.

Session 3: Plenary session

This session was chaired by Dr Ramesh Marasini (Associate Professor, Southampton Solent university, Southampton). In the session, four key questions were discussed in four different groups. The discussion was focussed on the following four questions.

- *Q1: What are the areas that SONE(UK) could effectively help in the development of infrastructure in Nepal?*
- *Q2: How knowledge gained by SONE(UK) members can be transferred?*
- *Q3: What are the areas that would benefit SONE(UK) members for their professional development?*
- *Q4: What topics should be covered in future conferences?*

A brief report highlighting the findings of the session in which participants brainstormed to find the ways Engineers working outside the country could contribute to the development of infrastructure projects in Nepal is given in Annex D.

From the feedback survey, it was clear that the participants were very satisfied with the organisation of the conference despite some of the weaknesses including the number, area, content and quality of the presentations. These issues will be addressed in the next conference by implementing more rigorous review process, strict time management and selection of papers/presentations covering a range of areas. A short feedback report is given in Annex E.

2. Conclusion and recommendations

Based on the discussion during the technical presentations and the plenary session (A brief report is given in Annex D), three main areas (and their sub-areas) of possible technology exchange and support in Infrastructure development in Nepal identified were:

- **Design /Construction:** Energy, Road sector – Highways and Bridges, Tunnelling, Mass Rapid Transit- METRO
- **Policy formulation:** Health and Safety, Design Standards, Regulation and Guidelines
- **Project management:** Procurement and delivery, Contracts, Project Planning and Programming , Monitoring and evaluation

It was discussed that the transfer of technology and new innovations require adaption to suit socio-political, geographical and technical context of Nepal. Training, up-skilling and awareness development are the areas where engineers outside Nepal could contribute realistically. Table A summarises the key points highlighted during the plenary session on the ways of transferring knowledge and technology to develop infrastructure projects in Nepal.

Table A: Mechanisms to transfer knowledge and technology to Nepal

Themes	Mechanisms
Health and Safety	- Establish permanent body/committee for SONE UK representing various disciplines (Scope of work, TOR) - Working together in agencies in Nepal - Inclusion of best practices in University curriculum
Policy formulation and Development	- Permanent contact and regular communication to work with National Planning Commission, reconstruction authority, government departments and Embassy of Nepal (UK)

Expert services	- E-library (this explained in section 4 serves both for SONE-UK members as well as for the relevant people from Nepal)
	- Expertise database
	  o skill
	  o accessibility and availability

Communication channels	- Sharing interviews by media - Short training by remote access (webcast) - Video conference – social media

It was agreed that conferences and technical seminars are very good mechanism to drive such initiatives forward. Such events are also essential for individual members' development as well as for facilitation to get them involved in the relevant initiatives.

There is a need for close co-operation between professional organisations outside the country such as SONE(UK) and the Government of Nepal and Engineering organisations there for the effective development and delivery of infrastructure projects. Engineers working internationally could be instrumental in bringing out technical and cultural changes in Nepal. The Embassy of Nepal in London is seen as a conduit to facilitate the collaboration between the SONE (UK) and the Government of Nepal. Future conferences and technical seminars organised by SONE (UK) are recommended be held in the subjects that are focussed on the development of its members as well as on the topics that contribute to the policy development in Nepal.

3. Annexes

Annex A: Programme

Annex B: List of participants

Annex C: Abstracts

Annex D: Plenary session findings

Annex E: Feedback report

Annex F: SONEUK Committees

Annex A: Programme

SONEUK Conference on Infrastructure Development in Nepal

Saturday 18th February 2017

Golden Sip Restaurant, 500 Northolt Road, South Harrow, London, HA2 8HA

Programme

10:00 - 10:30: Registration and Refreshments

Inaugural session (10:30-12:20)

Session Chair: Ghanashyam Paudyal, President, SONEUK

10:30 - 10:35: Welcome
 Shailendra Shrestha, General Secretary, SONEUK

10:35 - 10:40: Inauguration by *Ram Chandra Poudyal*, Honourable Member of Parliament, Nepal

10:40 - 10:45: Introduction to the Conference
 Dr Birendra Shrestha, Coordinator, SONEUK Conference Organising Committee

10:45 - 11:55: SONEUK and its activities
 Ghanashyam Paudyal, President - SONEUK

10:55 - 11:00: Speech by *Dr Durga Bahadur Subdedi*, HE Nepalese Ambassador to the UK

11:00 - 11:15: Inaugural speech by *Ram Chandra Poudyal*, Honourable Member of Parliament and Senior Leader of Nepali Congress

11:15 - 12:00: Keynote speech
 Professor Keshav Dahal, Leader of the Artificial Intelligence, Visual Communication and Networks (AVCN) Research Centre, University of the West of Scotland, Paisley

12:00 - 12:05: Vote of thanks by the Session Chair

12:05 - 13:15: Networking Lunch

Technical session (13:15 – 14:55)

Session Chair: Dr Binod Lal Amatya, Consulting Civil Engineer, CH2M

13:15 - 13:35: Role of ICT in Economic development of Nepal: Trend, challenges, and opportunity - *Hari Neupane*

13:35 – 14:55: Project Completion (Under Budget / Before time): A diagnostic analysis in the context of Nepal's past practise - *Sachida Chaturbedi*

14:55 – 14:15: Open knowledge Network and its role in Infrastructure Development - *Anjani Phuyal*

14:15 – 14:35: Evaluation and Solution of Energy Crisis in Nepal - *Ramhari Poudyal*

14:35 – 14:55: Saving human life and making work place safer while doing construction as part of infrastructure development of Nepal - *Raj Kumar Tripathi*

14:55 - 15:05: Break

Plenary session (15:05-15:45)

Session Chair: Dr Ramesh Marasini, Associate Professor, Southampton Solent University

15:45: Conference closing

Annex B: List of participants

List of participants

Name	Affiliation
Ram Chandra Poudel	MP and Senior Politician of Nepal
Durga Bahadur Subedi	HE Nepalese Ambassador to the UK
Anjani Phuyal	SONEUK Member
Bandana Pradhan Shrestha	SONEUK Member
Bed Bhattarai	SONEUK Member
Bhesh Raj Kafle	SONEUK Member
Bidur Ghimire	SONEUK Member
Bidur Khanal	SONEUK Member
Bijaya Bajracharya	SONEUK Member
Binod L Amatya	SONEUK Member
Birendra Shrestha	SONEUK Member
Boz Baral	SONEUK Member
Chintan Poudel	SONEUK Member
Debendra Dahal	SONEUK Member
Dipendra Rai	SONEUK Member
Dipu Bhurtyal	SONEUK Member
Diwash Gurung	SONEUK Member
Ganesh Thapa	SONEUK Member
Ghanashyam Paudyal	SONEUK Member
Hari Krishna Neupane	SONEUK Member
Kanhaiya Bhagat Koiri	SONEUK Member
Keshav Dahal	SONEUK Member
Keshav Pokharel	SONEUK Member
Khem Paudel	SONEUK Member
Krishna Kishor Shrestha	SONEUK Member
Krishna Neaupane	SONEUK Member
Kul Prasad Marahatta	SONEUK Member
Laxman Ghimire	SONEUK Member
Manoj Shrestha	SONEUK Member
Megha Paudyal	SONEUK Member
Naba Raj Adhikari	SONEUK Member
Narad Bhandari	SONEUK Member
Om Thapa	SONEUK Member
Pawan Man Bajracharya	SONEUK Member
Pooja Bhagat	SONEUK Member
Pooja Gurung	SONEUK Member
Prabin Limbu	SONEUK Member
Raj Malla	SONEUK Member
Rajkumar Tripathi	SONEUK Member
Ram Hari Poudyal	SONEUK Member
Ramananda Puri	SONEUK Member
Ramesh Marasini	SONEUK Member
Ramesh Rijal	SONEUK Member
Ramesh Tripathi	SONEUK Member
Rup Sundar Rai Chamling	SONEUK Member
Sachida Chaturbedi	SONEUK Member

Samana Shrestha	SONEUK Member
Saroj Koirala	SONEUK Member
Shailendra Kajee Shrestha	SONEUK Member
Shankar Dhakal	SONEUK Member
Sharad Prasad Kalakheti	SONEUK Member
Sovit Poudyal	SONEUK Member
Subodh Timilsina	SONEUK Member
Suraj Ale	SONEUK Member
Swikrit Pandit	SONEUK Member
Umesh Deusali	SONEUK Member
Umesh Parajuli	SONEUK Member
Vijay Gurung	SONEUK Member

Annex C: Abstracts

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Smart Technologies for monitoring and operation of infrastructure in smart cities
Professor Keshav Dahal, University of the West of Scotland

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Smart Technologies have recently been at the core of strategies for sustainable development and economic growth of the society. They can play a notable role in societal development through e-governance, e-education, e-health, communication and other sectors. Enhancement in the ICT/smart infrastructure directly reflects the societal advancement and its relationship with public and private sectors along with the citizens. It strengthens democratic norms and values, supplements the economic development and improves the quality of life thereby helping to develop citizen-centred transparent services and knowledge-based society.

Smart technologies are the main ingredient of the intelligent systems facilitated by the ICT infrastructure using internet of things (IoTs), sensors and networks technologies. This talk introduces some of the recent developments in smart technologies that are used for monitoring, security, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure in smart cities and smart villages. Lessons learned from several case studies from around the world will be presented. In Nepal, ICT and smart technologies have been used in small scale in some government and private sectors. Some of the government applications such as citizenship, passport, driving license, database management of drinking water supplies and others have been in use, but only to a limited extent. The presentation highlights potential application of the smart technologies to the infrastructure development in Nepal.

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Economic development of Nepal: Trend, challenges, and opportunity.
Hari Neupane, System Architect, Nuance Communication Inc.

The role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in development has been widely recognised and it is crucial especially in developing country like Nepal, which is mountainous and has only recently emerged from a long period of political disorder. The question is no longer whether ICT can help to development but how can it be done most effectively for a real change in the society and economic development of the country. This presentation discusses the relevance of ICT for economic growth in context of Nepal. Current ICT trends such as emerging software outsourcing business, social media and internet penetration around the country, growing telecom infrastructure and the link between ICT and economic growth will be discussed analysing the existing facts and figures from Nepal. Furthermore, the presentation covers a brief analysis of challenges and opportunity in implementation of large ICT infrastructure projects such as e-governance and Tele-health.

Project Completion (Under Budget / Before time):- A diagnostic analysis in the context of Nepal's past practice

Sachida Chaturbedi, Planning Consultant, PCC Ltd

Infrastructure development project delivery situation in Nepal is regarded as very poor as per Auditor General's annual report excluding earthquake/ Terai unrest. The statistics show that time extension has been granted between 50 to 200% of original duration in the development projects in Nepal. The Auditor General concluded that the reasons for such poor performance include: incorrect monitoring & improper model at first place, issues with public involvement / consultation, land acquisition issue, ineffective implementation, unsatisfactory procurement and poor contract management. This could be improved by implementing systematic project management practices including the choice of appropriate type of contracts. The presentation will highlight current practices of contract procurement, implementation & programme management of ongoing development projects including National Pride project. Then theoretical aspects of project life cycle and Nepal's Contractor practice after award (mobilisation advance, material advance, bill payment & supply chain liabilities) will be introduced. This will be discussed with an example of NEC Option C contract type procurement trial in Nepal. The presentation will finally show how innovative methods of reporting & identifying problem in early stage and applying control/ mitigation measure such as Project Dash board and Health check-up report could be utilised for the timely completion of project within the budget and meeting quality requirements.

Open knowledge Network and its role in Infrastructure Development

Anjani Phuyal, Open Knowledge Nepal, London

Open knowledge creates power for the many, not the few. The availability of open data frees us to make informed choices about how we live, how do we travel, what we buy and who gets our vote. The concept of open knowledge is that the information and insights are accessible and apparent to everyone. This is a concept where everyone has access to key information and the ability to use it to understand and shape their lives; where powerful institutions are comprehensible and accountable; and where vital research information that will help tackle challenges such as poverty and climate change is available to all.

This presentation introduces the open knowledge concept using a case study of Open Knowledge International, which is a worldwide non-profit network of people passionate about openness, using advocacy, technology and training to unlock information and enable people to work with it to create and share knowledge. The network builds tools and communities to create, use and share open knowledge - content and data that everyone can use, share and build on. By creating an open knowledge commons and developing tools and communities around this, a significant contribution could be made to improving governance, research and the economy. Through the examples of activities of Open Knowledge network in Nepal, the presentation demonstrates the ways in which open knowledge concept could play a vital role in infrastructure developments in Nepal.

Evaluation and Solution of Energy Crisis in Nepal

Ramhari Paudyal, PhD candidate, Swansea University

World is facing an enormous challenge to access clean and modern energy services to their growing huge population. Energy is fundamental for socio-economic development and poverty eradication. However, Nepal has been suffering from an energy crisis for about a decade now. The energy crisis is becoming chaotic. A normal part of people's life is to face

long hours of load shedding, never ending queues in front of Petrol stations and LPG suppliers despite having 45000 MW of economically and technically exploitable hydro power including over 100 MW of micro-hydro power, 2100 MW of solar power, and 3000 MW of wind power. Similarly, it is estimated that 1.1 million domestic biogas plants can be developed in the country.

Firstly, this presentation will review the phenomenon of the energy scenario using a holistic model. Secondly, it will examine the real energy issue with different scenarios, for example, Business as Usual, Renewable Energy and the Energy Efficiency practices. The study of energy in the different scenarios will also be tabulated and analysed by a Long - range Energy Alternative Planning (LEAP) model. Further, it will analyse the potential for full-scale deployment of sustainable energy systems. An action plan under study for energy supply and management to deal with the energy crisis in Nepal will be discussed.

Saving human life and making work place safer while doing construction as part of infrastructure development of Nepal
RK Tripathi, Senior site engineer/BAM Construction

The management of Health and Safety (H&S) at construction sites is vital to minimise accidents and hence minimise injuries and fatalities. The main reasons for accidents at construction sites include: inadequate risk assessment, inadequate method statement, falling from height, exposure to dangerous chemicals, under water work and dewatering, collapse of side wall and improper lighting and ventilation. The H&S at construction sites could be influenced by the way we behave and the way we communicate at different phases such as design, planning, procurement or supervision. The project team should aim to achieve Zero Harm by leadership, working together with the subcontractors, engaging with the workforce and improving on the existing technical controls.

In Nepalese context, the main issues found for poor construction safety are: lack of knowledge of workers about the safety measures and the equipments to be used; careless of the worker using safety equipment; less priority to safety management by the employers; lack of safety equipment, lack of safety training and safety awareness; a very limited safety regulations and scarce implementation. Various best practices in the management of H&S in the UK could be used to improve H&S situation in Nepal. The construction safety practice could be improved to reduce accidents by implementing construction safety practices including: providing proper induction, mandatory use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), risk assessment and method statement review, COSHH assessment, occupational health awareness and safety training to the workers. The author will furnish how these measures could be implemented in the practice to demonstrate their effectiveness for H&S management in infrastructure projects.

Annex D: Plenary session discussion

Summary of Plenary session on the 'Infrastructure Development in Nepal'

1. Introduction

The development of infrastructure acts like circulation system in a human body, which contribute to socio-economic and technical development of the country. Infrastructure development in Nepal is an essential element for the overall prosperity of the country. The country faces various challenges of attracting investment due to lack of political stability and inherent risks in such project owing to the lack of political stability, geo-technical and environmental constraints. The projects that are already in construction have suffered delays in their completion. However, there has been some progress in recent years and new infrastructure projects are being conceptualised or developed, some of these being in the idea, concept or design stages.

UNESCO (2010) identifies the roles of Engineers in the development infrastructure projects, which include energy, transport, environmental health, water supply and sanitation, communications and asset, reliability and maintenance management (Figure 1).
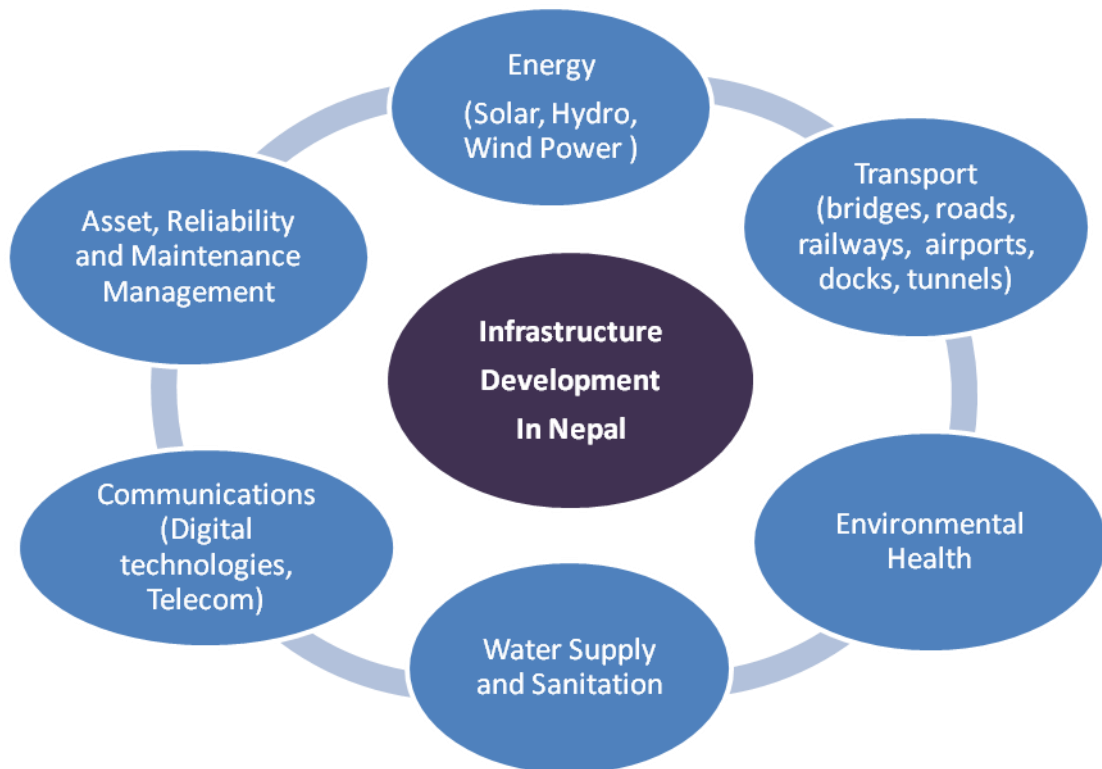

Figure 1: Facets of Infrastructure Development and Engineering Disciplines

The skills and expertise that several engineering professions (civil, mechanical, electrical, telecommunication and many other specialisations), who work as a team, are essential to develop and maintain projects sustainably. In the last two decades, Nepalese engineers have been working in both developed and developing countries across the globe and have acquired knowledge and skills in design, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure projects. This brief report highlights the findings through a conference organised by the Society of Nepalese Engineers in the UK, in which more than 50

Engineers brainstormed how Engineers working outside the country, specifically in the UK, could contribute to the development of infrastructure projects in Nepal. The discussion was focussed on the following four questions.

- *Q1: What are the areas that SONE(UK) could effectively help in the development of infrastructure in Nepal?*
- *Q2: How knowledge gained by SONE(UK) members can be transferred?*
- *Q3: What are the areas that would benefit SONE(UK) members for their professional development?*
- *Q4: What topics should be covered in future conferences?*
- The first two questions were around the technology transfer and exchange and the last two were mainly on fulfilling the needs of members and their professional development. These activities could be shared or practiced jointly by Nepal Engineer's Council, Nepal Engineer's Association or any other societies in Nepal.

2. Areas of possible Technology exchange and support in Infrastructure development in Nepal

Table 1 summarises the 3 main areas – design and construction, policy formulation and project management. However, this is not an exhaustive as the members who did not attend have a wealth of experience and expertise, which should be captured in future.

Table 1: Areas of support

Areas	Details
Design /Construction	- Energy - Road sector – Highways and Bridges - Tunnelling - Mass Rapid Transit- METRO
Policy formulation	- Health and safety - Standards - Regulation and Guidelines
Project management	- Procurement and delivery - Contracts - Project Planning and Programming - Monitoring and evaluation

It should be noted that the transfer of technology and new innovations require adaption to suit socio-political, geographical and technical context of Nepal. Training, upskilling and awareness development are the areas where engineers outside Nepal could contribute realistically. Table 2 summarises the key points highlighted during the plenary session on the ways of transferring knowledge and technology to develop infrastructure projects in Nepal.

Table 2: Mechanisms to transfer knowledge and technology to Nepal

Themes	Mechanisms
Health and Safety	- Establish permanent body/committee for SONE UK representing various disciplines (Scope of work, TOR) - Working together in agencies in Nepal - Inclusion of best practices in University curriculum
Policy formulation and Development	- Permanent contact and regular communication to work with National Planning Commission, reconstruction authority, government departments and Embassy of Nepal (UK)

Expert services	- E-library (this explained in section 4 serves both for SONE-UK members as well as for the relevant people from Nepal)
	- Expertise database
	    o skill
	    o accessibility and availability

Communication channels	- Sharing interviews by media - Short training by remote access (webcast) - Video conference – social media

3. Activities for the development by SONE(UK) members' professional development and future conferences

The participants of the plenary session identified the keys areas of professional development of SONE (UK) members which include themes such as facilitating easy access to information, knowledge exchange activities and close links with UK professional organisations (Table 3).

Table 3: Professional Development activities

Themes	Details
Provisions for exposures/ access to information	- E-library of best practices, case studies on recent innovations and developments and papers - Web forum
Participation/ Engagement Opportunities	- Involve members themselves for SONEUK projects - Networking opportunities with - Seminars and Conferences - CPD- How to do presentation
Professional Development	- Formation of support group for ICE, CIOB, IMECHE, RICS, CIBSE - Pilot project- to train young engineers - Publication- yearly may be (this should reach to people/members to read) - Thematic group formation- policy, H&S, construction, various sectors
Skills Development	- Training - Working with Universities and colleges to develop Engineering curriculum to include latest developments, sustainability, Computer Aided Design (CAD)

Table 4 summarises the topics that SONE(UK) should cover in future. The participants have highlighted points that are essential for individual members' development as well as the topics that are relevant to the development of Nepal.

Table 4: Topics for future conferences

Themes	*Details*
Subject-based conferences	- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Highway, Transport, Tunnelling, Energy, Sewage Solutions, Project Management
Format of conferences/workshops	- Equal commitment from experts and young engineers, for example topics covered by experts, topics covered by young engineers
Special topics relevant to the context of Nepal and UK	- Sustainable building for remote parts of Nepal with seismic background - Renewal energy- prospects in Nepal
Development of members	- Provide guidelines for presentation - Professional membership process: an introductory workshop

4. Conclusions

There is a need for close co-operation between professional organisations outside the country such as SONE(UK) and the Government of Nepal and Engineering organisations there for the effective development and delivery of infrastructure projects. Engineers working internationally could be instrumental in bringing out technical and cultural changes in Nepal. The Embassy of Nepal, London is seen as a conduit to facilitate the collaboration between the SONE (UK) and the Government of Nepal. Future conferences organised by SONE (UK) should be held in the subjects that are focussed on the development of its members as well as on the topics that contribute to the policy development in Nepal.
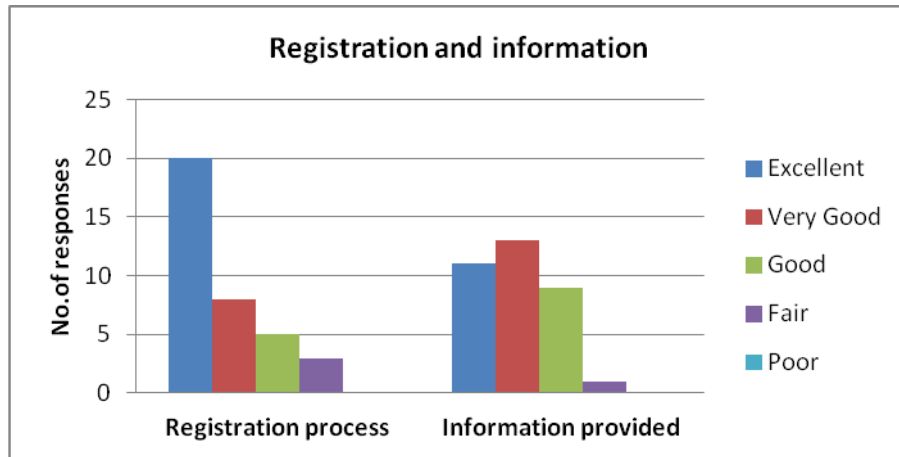
5. References

UNESCO (2010). Engineering: issues, challenges and opportunities for development. [online], http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001897/189753e.pdf accessed online 10/02/2017.
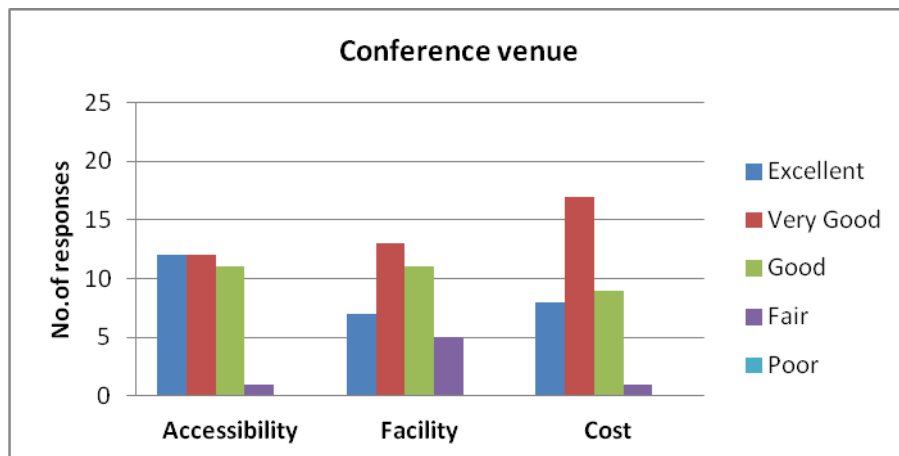
# Annex E: Feedback

Survey results

In total, we received 36 complete feedbacks.

- Most of the delegates rated registration process and information provided as 'Excellent' or 'Very good'. Such responses were 78% for Registration process and 67% for Information provided.

- Similarly, most of the delegates rated conference venue as 'Excellent' or 'Very good' over all 3 sub-categories (Accessibility, Facility and Cost).
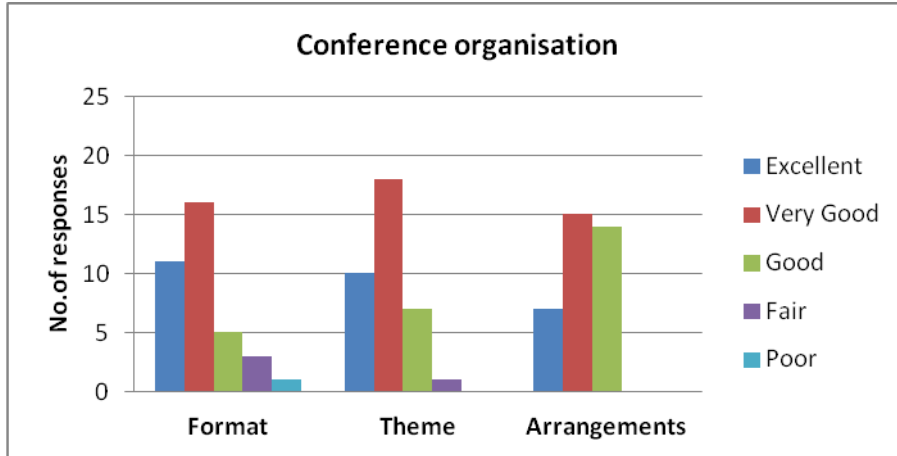
- Following the trend, most of the delegates rated conference organisation as 'Excellent' or 'Very good' over all 3 sub-categories (Format, Theme and Arrangements). The 'Arrangements' sub-category was rated only 'Good', 'Very good' or 'Excellent'.
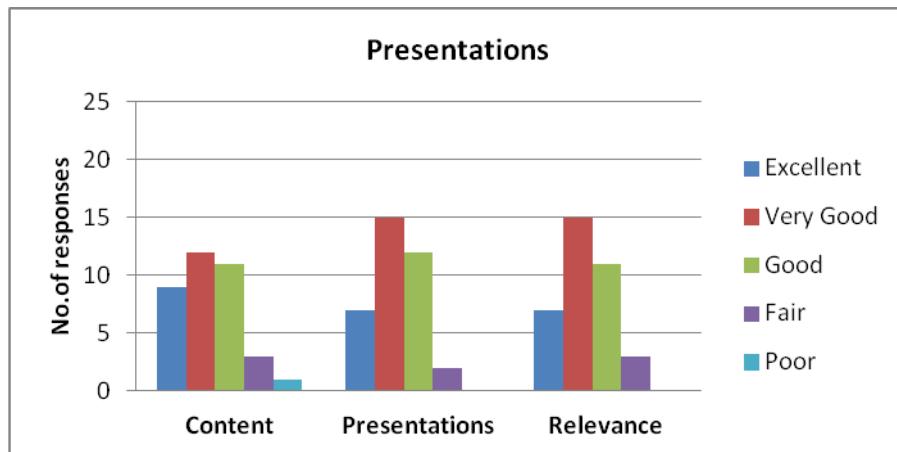
- Most of the delegates rated presentations as 'Excellent' or 'Very good' over all 3 sub-categories (Content, Presentations and Relevance). These responses were around 60% for all sub-categories. In this category, there were few 'Fair' and 'Poor' ratings too.

- Overall, the delegates were very satisfied with the conference. The overall satisfaction ratings were 25% 'Excellent' and 64% 'Very good'.

- Other comments included:
- Excellent event, need more of these
- Presentation content and quality
- Too many presentations
- Time management
- Areas of coverage
- No political guest

Conclusion

The conference was successfully organised and the delegates were very satisfied with the event. In the feedback survey, there were some weaknesses identified which we will address in the future conferences. Some delegates commented on the content and quality of the presentations. One of the main aims was the professional development of its members by providing platform to present their ideas/work. With this view, the preference was given to the newcomers rather than the professionals engaged in such activities. From the next conference, we will implement more rigorous review process and try to include experienced presenters as well as the starters. Regarding the number of presentations, we will limit the number to only 4 presentations from next conference. We will also address the time management issue by implementing strict rule. From the next conference, we will take care when selecting papers/presentations to cover different areas. About the guest, the executive committee will decide the best way forward.

With these commitments, we hope that many more of you will be attending the next conference. See you then!

Annex F: Committees

Conference Organising committee

- Dr Birendra Shrestha, Transport for London – Coordinator
- Dr Ramesh Marasini, Southampton Solent University
- Krishna Shrestha, A-One+ (CH2M)
- Prof Keshav Dahal, University of West of Scotland
- Ganesh Thapa, TSP
- Dr Binod Lal Amatya, CH2M
- Narad Bhandari, Network rail

SONEUK Executive committee

- Ghanashyam Poudyal – President
- Raj Pathak – Vice President
- Shailendra Shrestha – General Secretary
- Bijaya Bajracharya - Tresurer
- Hari Neupane – Joint Secretary
- Anjani Phuyal - Member
- Bed Bhattarai - Member
- Dr Birendra Shrestha - Member
- Narad Bhandari – Member
- Saroj Koirala - Member
- Umesh Parajuli – Member