



SOCIETY OF NEPALESE ENGINEERS IN UK

SONEUK

NEWSLETTER

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Water for Tomorrow



The World water day 22 March, United Nations (UN) started observing since 1993. The idea was formally conceived at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The primary objective was to address global water-related issues correlating to sustainability as it is too extensive for individual states to handle on their own. The key aim is to tackle challenges due growing water usage and limited availability of freshwater, which is becoming increasingly scarce due to rising global demand and importance of protecting the world's ocean.

Every year, a theme is chosen to emphasise the importance of freshwater, the core focus being the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Water and sanitation. For the year 2025, the World Water Day theme is "Glacier Preservation". The theme focuses on preserving glaciers and urging immediate action against climate change to safeguard vital freshwater sources, protect ecosystems, and ensure water security for future generations.

In this era of global water crisis, where several nations are facing severe water shortages, it is an advantageous facet for Nepal as it possesses abundant water resources. It is interesting to note that about 2.27% of the world's freshwater resources is in Nepal, thereby opening doors to enormous opportunities.

Amongst the several usages such as domestic and industrial, the major potential of the water resources is priorities in the hydropower generation and irrigation. In the current scenario in terms of hydropower generation, the installed capacity of Nepal is 2.8GW (2800 MW) which is roughly 7% of its total viable capacity (43 GW). Similarly, Nepal which is predominantly an agricultural country with 60 % of its workforce is engaged in agriculture, and despite 2.5 million hectares of land deemed feasible for irrigation only 35% receives year-round irrigation coverage. These figures illustrate that both sectors are lagging, hence highlighting the need for efforts to achieve the full potential.

In the recent months, SONEUK organised webinars mainly focusing on the major projects related to water resources (hydropower and inter-basin water transfer project).

The first webinar titled "Challenges and Opportunities of Budhigandaki Hydropower Project – 1200MW" was presented by Associate Prof of IOE/TU and former coordinator of Budhigandaki Hydropower Project and former CEO of Budhigandaki Jalbidhyut Company, Dr Jagat Kumar Shrestha. The current challenges were discussed in terms of hydropower sector for its energy security and reliability, highlighting the issues related to peak load and energy spillage. It was also evident that Nepal is relying on import of electricity from neighbouring country to meet production deficit during dry season. Furthermore, several reasons relating to project's viability such as project location, transmission challenges, efficient dam height, dam safety vs burst considerations, associated flood risks and value yielding etc were key highlights of the webinar. Hence, the successful completion of Budhi Gandaki which is a reservoir hydropower project can add substantial value in Nepal's hydropower sector as it will generate 1200 MW which is almost half of the current installed capacity. Thus, paving a way for Nepal to be self-reliant in hydroelectricity and boosting the economy.

The second webinar titled "Water resources, Use of Underground Spaces and Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) Projects in Nepal" was presented by Er. Mitra Baral, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Nepal. As water is becoming a scarce commodity globally water management strategies, equitable water distribution, efficient use of available water is imperative to ensure the sustainable utilisation of the available resources. IBWT projects can provide a viable solution for the spatial variation in water resources, thus leading to water balance (from surplus basin to deficit basin) where it can be used for various purposes such as hydropower generation, irrigation, water supply, ground water recharge etc. It also aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The webinar shared valuable insights in the context of Nepal on water resources and their utilisation, available opportunities and successful initiatives, implementation and challenges of inter-basin water transfer projects, opportunities grabbed during project implementation, the success of TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine) in Sunkoshi Marine and Bheri Babai Projects, successful implementation of headworks and tunnels, and other key developments in water resource management.

The webinars put forward valuable insights on water resources and their utilisation, available opportunities and successful initiatives, implementation and challenges. The events served as a platform for interaction and knowledge exchange among experts and enthusiasts thereby paving a way for dynamic exchange of ideas, inspiring innovation and creating opportunities for future collaboration.

SONEUK, would continue to prioritise the sustainable development and sustainability in its upcoming events and urged engineering professionals and development enthusiasts to join SONEUK through its endeavours to make world healthy place to live today, tomorrow and forever. I would like to reiterate here to emphasise World water day "It's time to care before the water is rare".

Happy Water Day to all !

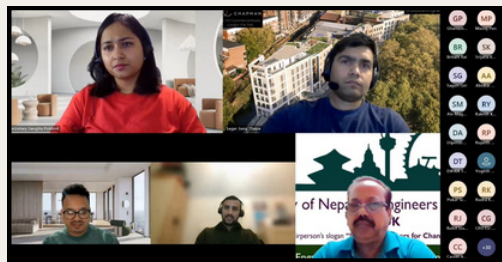
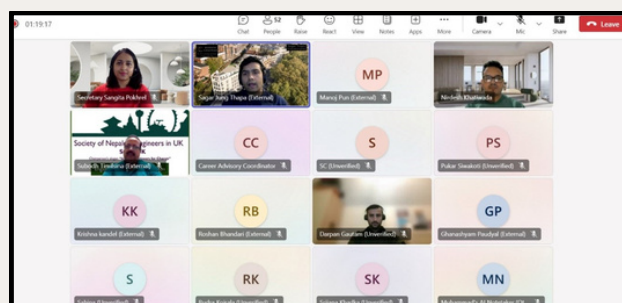
Er Subodh Timilsina
Chairperson
SONEUK

1. **Talk Programme 1** : *Discussing Challenges and Exploring Opportunities: Graduate Employment* - **07-Jan-2025**
2. **Interaction Program**: *Hon. Dr Shekhar Koirala at Nepal Embassy* - **10-Jan-2025**
3. **Charity event 1** : *Blood Donation Event* - **11-Jan-2025**
4. **Meeting** : *UK's Relationship with Nepal Programme with Gareth Thomas, MP* - **13-Jan-2025**
5. **Training and CPD Series 3** : *Engineering and Research Skills Training - Methodology* - **18-Jan-2025**
6. **Meeting** : *Ambassador of Nepal to UK* - **22-Jan-2025**
7. **Webinar Series 1** : *Challenges and Opportunities of Budhigandaki Hydropower Project (1200MW)* - **25-Jan-2025**
8. **Career Advisory 1**: *Graduates seeking job opportunities* - **28-Jan-2025**
9. **Talk Program Event 2** : *Discussion on How to prepare for Charter Professional Review (CPR)* - **5-Feb-2025**
10. **Training and CPD Series 4** : *Engineering and Research Skills Training -Data collection, presentation, analysis and discussion presentation* - **15-Feb-2025**
11. **Meeting** : *Campus chief, IOE Pulchowk and President, NEA* - **18-Feb-2025**
12. **Webinar Series 2**: *Water resources, Use of Underground Spaces and Inter-Basin Water Transfer Projects in Nepal* - **1-Mar-2025**

1. Talk program 1: *Discussing Challenges and Exploring Opportunities: Graduate Employment* – 7 Jan 2025

The Society of Nepalese Engineers in the UK (SONEUK) organised its first Talk Programme on “*Discussing Challenges and Exploring Opportunities: Graduate Employment*” on 7th January 2025 from 19:30 to 21:30. The program was conducted by Talk Programme Coordinator Er. Nirdesh Khatiwada.

The main aim of the program was to provide valuable insights, helping member engineers gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges graduates face during their career journey. A special thanks to our esteemed speakers, **Er. Darpan Gautam, Er. Sagar J Thapa, and Er. Sangita Pokhrel**, for generously sharing their time, expertise, and experiences with us.



The talk programme was actively participated by over 70 participants, and more than three dozen questions were answered by speakers.

Talk program subcommittee also wishes to express our sincere appreciation to our Chairperson, Er. Subodh Timilsina, for his vision of this program and also for providing the closing statement and thanking for participants & our speakers. We also like to thank our General Secretary, Er. Manoj Pun, for opening remarks.

2. Interaction Program: *Hon. Dr Shekhar Koirala at Nepal Embassy* – 10 Jan 2025



The chairperson of The Society of Nepalese Engineers in the UK (SONEUK) Er. Subodh Timilsina, participated in the interaction program- *Nepali diaspora in the United Kingdom* organised by the Embassy of Nepal in London, which was held in the presence of Hon. Dr. Shekhar Koirala, member of the Federal Parliament and a prominent leader of Nepal.

The event was held on 10th January 2025, in Kensington Palace Gardens, Embassy of Nepal, London.

3. Charity event 1 : *Blood Donation Event* – 11 Jan 2025

The Society of Nepalese Engineers in the UK (SONEUK) successfully organised its first-ever blood donation programme on 11th January 2025 at the Blood Donor Centre in Westfield London, Shepherd’s Bush. The event took place between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm (GMT) and was aimed at contributing to a vital humanitarian cause.

Despite an initial registration of around 20 engineers, attendance was significantly impacted by the ongoing winter-flu outbreak and freezing temperatures in London. While some participants were unable to make it, a few attendees also faced health or personal constraints that prevented them from donating.

Speaking about the event, SONEUK Chairperson Er. Subodh Timilsina said,

“Even with today’s challenging conditions, several dedicated engineers came forward to donate blood. At SONEUK, we always prioritise our social and humanitarian responsibilities and this marks as a proud milestone in SONEUK history. We look forward to continuing this initiative across the UK.”



4. Meeting : UK's Relationship with Nepal' Programme with Gareth Thomas, MP : 13 Jan 2025

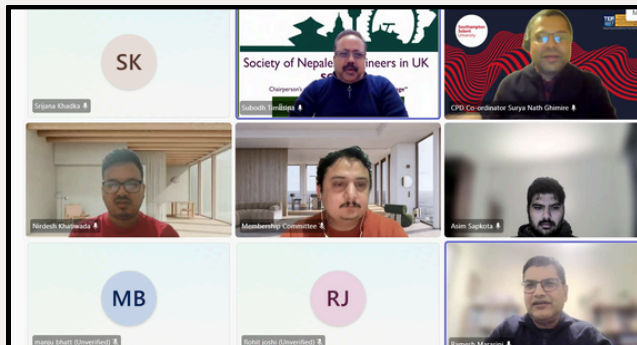
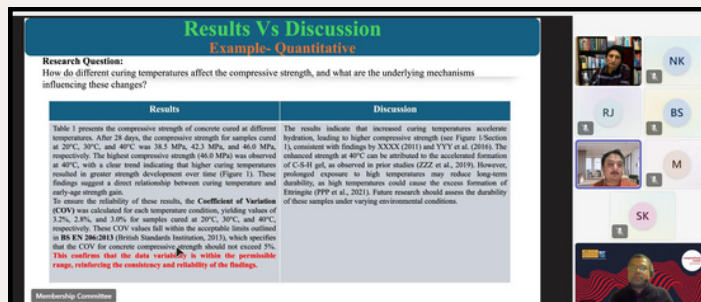
SONEUK Chairperson, senior engineers along with development enthusiasts attended a meeting to discuss “UK's relationship with Nepal”. The meeting was organised by Hon. Catherine West MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Hon. Gareth Thomas MP. The meeting held at House of Commons, Westminster on 13th January 2025. During meeting, various developmental aspects, prevailing issues, and concerns were discussed. The meeting also demanded more supports to Nepal. At the end of the meeting, a formal representation on behalf of Nepalese communities were also presented. SONEUK also contributed for formal representation focusing on “benefit of knowledge transfer to Nepal and how SONEUK can help”.

5. Training and CPD Series 3 : Engineering and Research Skills Training , Series3 - Methodology : 18 Jan 2025

The third part of the series on engineering and research skills training was held on 18th January 2025, online via Microsoft Teams. The training's topic was “Methodology”. The event was organised by Dr. Suryanath Ghimire (Training and CPD Coordinator, SONEUK).

The main aim of this Engineering Research Skills training series was to provide the participants with essential tools and techniques while choosing appropriate research methodologies for data collection and analysis. The first half of the event was presentation session by the participants , each presentation was followed by constructive feedback for further improvement.

The second half of the event began with a presentation by Dr. Pukar Siwakoti, a doctorate researcher and lecturer at the University of East London. His session provided valuable insights on how to present, analyse, and discuss the collected data, equipping attendees with essential academic writing skills.



6. Meeting : Ambassador of Nepal to UK : 22 Jan 2025

SONEUK chairperson Er. Subodh Timilsina, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Chandra Kumar Ghimire, Ambassador of Nepal to the UK. During visit, Er Timilsina introduced SONEUK and its activity within UK and globally. Er Timilsina also highlighted the potential area of cooperation SONEUK and the Embassy of Nepal particularly in the area of Engineering technology and knowledge transfer and urged HE Mr Ghimire for his cooperation. H.E. Mr. Ghimire, thanked SONEUK for its efforts assured more support in days to come. Mr. Uddav Neupane, the First Secretary, Embassy of Nepal along with others were also present during the meeting.

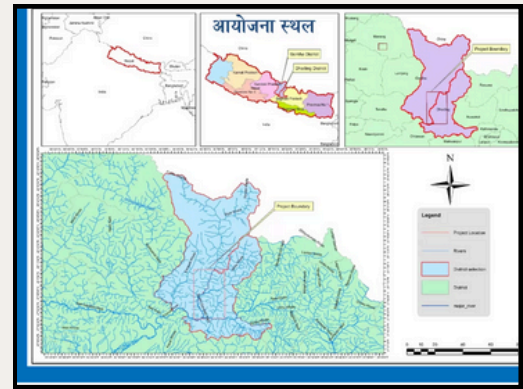
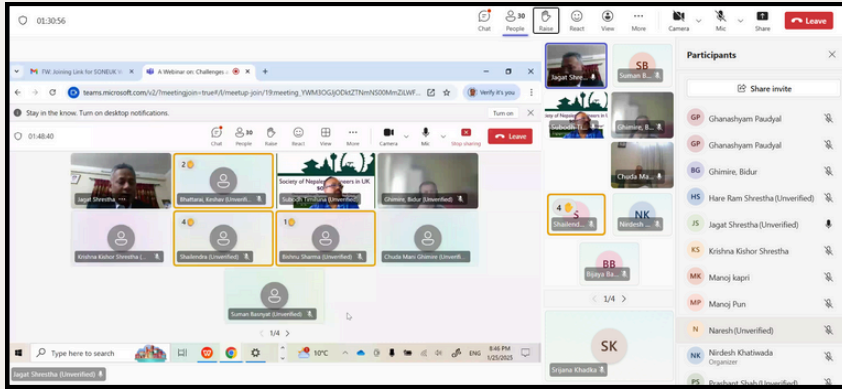


7. Webinar Series 1 : Challenges and Opportunities of Budhigandaki Hydropower Project (1200MW) – 25 Jan 2025

The Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK (SONEUK) organised its first Webinar of 2025 on 25th January 2025. The webinar Series 1 titled **“Challenges and Opportunities of Budhigandaki Hydropower Project – 1200MW”** was presented by Associate Prof of IOE/TU and former coordinator Budhigandaki Hydropower Project and former CEO of Budhigandaki Jalbidhyut Company, Dr Jagat Kumar Shrestha. The program was conducted and moderated by SONEUK Chairperson Er. Subodh Timilsina.

The webinar was attended by members of SONEUK, ASNEng (American Society of Nepalese Engineers), NEA (Nepal Engineers’ Association), CNSUK (Centre for Nepalese Studies UK) and many professionals from the UK, Nepal and the USA. Over two hours and 30 minute long webinar was actively engaged by 40 participants and 15 or more questions and concerns were addressed.

In his closing remarks, Er. Subodh Timilsina expressed his gratitude to Dr. Shrestha for his comprehensive and informative presentation. He also extended his appreciation to all participants from across three continents for their active engagement and thought-provoking discussions.

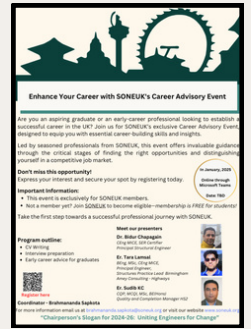


8. Career Advisory Event 1: Graduates seeking job opportunities - 28 Jan 2025

The Society of Nepalese Engineers in the UK (SONEUK) organised its first career event on 28th January 2025. The event was organised by the career advisory sub-committee focusing on themes related to CV writing, facing an interview as well as tips on early career advice mainly aimed at the graduates seeking job opportunities.

The main aim of the seminar was to share tips and knowledge from established and successful professionals. The event was highly appreciated as it received more than expected registrations. During the seminar, Dr Bidur Chapagain, Er. Sudib KC and Er. Tara Lamsal shared tips on the topic based on their years of experience in being interviewed as well as interviewing perspective candidates in various roles. The information shared was insightful and was well received by the participants.

The organising committee would like to thank the presenters for sharing valuable information which can surely give some support for anyone aspiring for career development.

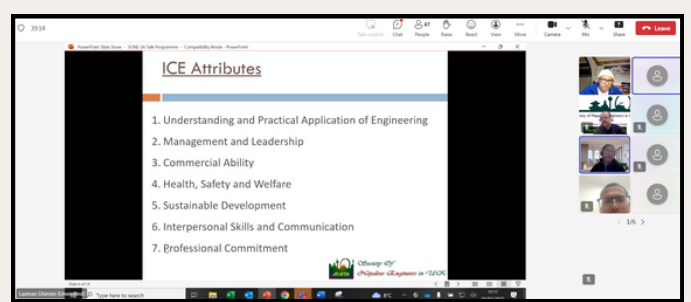


9. Talk Program 2: Discussion on how to prepare for Charter Professional Review (CPR)- 5 Feb 2025

Society of Nepalese Engineers in the UK (SONEUK) organised its Talk Programme Series O2 titled **“How to Prepare for Charter Professional Review (CPR)”** on Wednesday 5th February 2025. The aim of the talk program was to provide information and tips to member engineers towards the readiness for Chartered Professional Review (CPR).

A huge appreciation to Er. Laxman Ghimire for generously sharing his expertise, experience, and valuable guidance. His detailed presentation and suggestions have been truly inspiring for those engineers who are preparing for chartership including graduate engineers. The programme was actively engaged by 48 enthusiastic engineers clarifying their doubts and confusions towards the Chartership journey. The session was conducted by Talk Programme Coordinator Er Nirdesh Khatiwada.

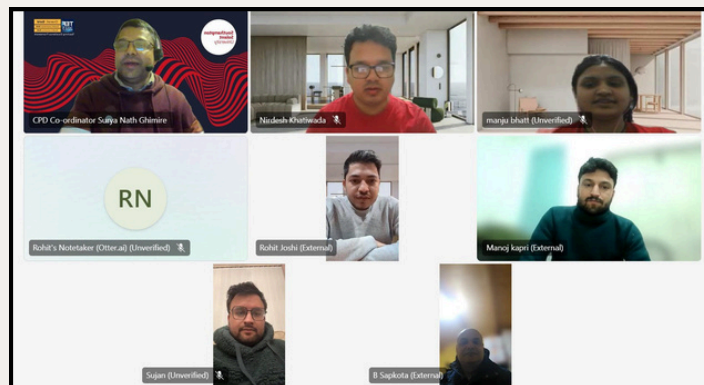
SONEUK Chairperson, Er. Subodh Timilsina expressed his gratitude to Er. Laxman Ghimire for his efforts highlighting key considerations to be made for chartership journey and tips for CPR. He also thanked all participating engineers for their time and dedication to engineering professions. A heartfelt thanks to Er. Manoj Pun for his welcome note and continued support which is truly commendable.



10. Training and CPD : Engineering and Research Skills Training , Series 4 -Data collection, presentation, analysis and discussion presentation - 15 Feb 2025

The fourth part of the series on engineering and research skills training was held on 15th February 2025 online via Microsoft Teams. The training's topic was " Data collection, presentation, analysis, and discussion"

The main aim of this Engineering Research Skills training series was to provide the participants with essential tools and techniques while presenting, analysing, and discussing their research findings. All participants presented their work and got feedback. It was followed by a discussion led by Dr Suryanath Ghimire on how to write conclusions, and recommendations for industrial applications and further research.



11. Meeting : NEA, President and Campus Chief, IOE Pulchowk Campus - 18 Feb 2025

SONEUK Chairperson, Er. Subodh Timilsina during his visit to Nepal had a meeting with the campus chief of Institute of Engineering (IOE), Pulchowk Dr. Sanjay Uprety on 18th February 2025, besides that on the same day he had a brief meeting with Er. Subash Baral, who is the president of Nepal Engineering Association (NEA). The main aim of the meeting was to discuss how the institutions can collaborate and work towards creating opportunities for Nepalese engineers in Nepal and UK. The meeting concluded that further discussion regarding on the MoU will be followed on May 2025.

12. Webinar Series 2 : Water resources, Use of Underground Spaces and Inter-Basin Water Transfer Projects in Nepal – 1 Mar 2025

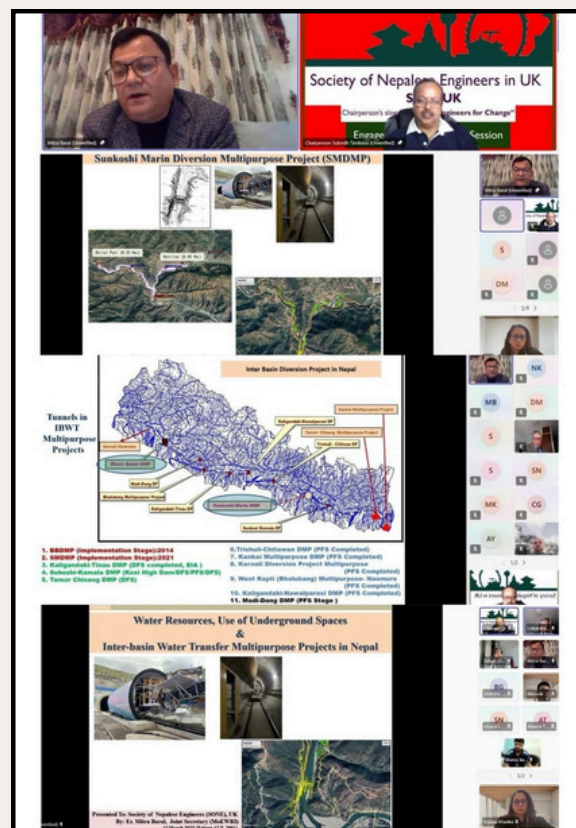
The Society of Nepalese Engineers in the UK (SONEUK) has successfully completed its second webinar series on Saturday. The webinar, titled " Water Resources, Use of Underground Spaces and Inter-Basin Water Transfer Projects in Nepal " was presented by Er. Mitra Baral, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Nepal.

The event was attended by members of SONEUK, ASNEng (American Society of Nepalese Engineers), NEA (Nepal Engineers' Association), CNSUK (Centre for Nepalese Studies UK), as well as engineering professionals from the UK, Nepal, and the USA. The two hour long session saw active participation from 28 professionals, with more than 20 insightful questions and concerns addressed, leading to an engaging and informative discussion.

During his presentation, Er. Mitra Baral shared valuable insights on water resources and their utilisation, available opportunities and successful initiatives, implementation and challenges of inter-basin water transfer projects, opportunities grabbed during project implementation, the success of TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine) in Sunsari Marin and Bheri Babai Projects, successful implementation of headworks and tunnels, and other key developments in water resource management.

Additionally, Er. Shailendra Kaji Shrestha, Dr. Bidur Ghimire, Er. Rudra Koirala, Dr. Sohan Ghimire, Er. Manoj Kapri, and environmental expert Mr. Lokendra Dhakal contributed their thoughts and raised important questions, enriching the discussion.

In his closing remarks, Er. Subodh Timilsina, Chairperson of SONEUK, expressed gratitude to Er. Mitra Baral for his highly informative presentation, addressing all queries with detailed explanations. He also thanked participants from three continents for their active engagement and thought-provoking discussions.



1. Training and CPD Session 5 : Engineering and Research Skills Training , Series 5 -Writing Conclusion and recommendation

Date: 22-Mar- 2025
Time: 18:00 - 20:00 GMT hrs
Venue: Online platform via Microsoft Teams
Organiser: Dr Surya Nath Ghimire (SONEUK CPD and Training Co-ordinator)

3. Webinar Series 3

Date: 29-March-2025
Topic: "The overall scenario and challenges of the road sector in the changed concept of federalism in Nepal"
Venue: Online platform via Microsoft Teams
Organizer: Er. Subodh Timilsina (Chairperson, SONEUK)

4. Talk Programme Series 03

Date: To be announced (April)
Venue: Online platform via Microsoft Teams
Organizer: Er. Nirdesh Khatiwada (SONEUK Talk Programme Co-ordinator)

2. Submission deadline for 10th SONEUK Conference on - Science, Engineering and Technology 2025 - 31st March 2025



The 10th SONEUK (Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK) Conference on Science, Engineering and Technology is an interdisciplinary annual conference that brings together researchers, engineers, and policymakers in science, engineering, and technology worldwide. We invite abstract submissions of novel and original work in paper, presentation, or poster format. The topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Health and safety management
- Manufacturing, production and construction processes
- Material science and bio-materials
- Mathematical modeling and simulation
- Quality assurance and reliability
- Renewable energy
- Sustainability, circular and bioeconomy
- Transportation, infrastructure and megaprojects

Please submit your abstract with no more than 250 words to conference@soneuk.org. If you would like to discuss any further details about the conference or abstract please contact the conference committee chair at conference@soneuk.org.

Abstract Deadline: 31 Dec 2024
Submission Deadline: 31 Mar 2025
Conference Date: 14 Jun 2025



CONDOLENCES//

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Mrs Shanta Devi Shrestha on 11th February 2025, the beloved mother of our advisor as well as the founding member of SONEUK, Dr. Birendra Shrestha . We offer our heartfelt prayers for the departed soul. During this difficult time, our thoughts and condolences are with Dr. Birendra Shrestha and his family.



Wishing everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year 2082



- Publication Credits:**
- Subodh Timilsina
 - Manoj Pun
 - Srijana Khadka
 - Sujan Sharma
 - Nirdesh Khatiwada

