



2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL US - NEPAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2009  
**CAN - USA**  
TURN YOUR PASSION INTO RESULTS  
HELPING AMERICA AND NEPAL CONNECT

Doing something to help the “Homeland” is a thought that follows all immigrant engineers living in the United States. Though people may have lived here for many years, the notion of giving back to the place of one’s origin in a substantive and meaningful way is a flame that burns brightly in their hearts.

However, due to many factors most have not been able to turn these ideas into actions. In many cases, it is simply because people may not be able to connect with individuals with similar outlooks.

The Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA, [www.can-usa.org](http://www.can-usa.org)) was formed over two years ago to provide a platform for people to translate their passion into results. Since that point, we have accumulated numerous successes. These include: Partnering in efforts to link remote villages to the internet, holding professional networking meetings, teaching courses in real time by teachers in the US to students attending the lecture in Kathmandu.

However the most significant of CAN-USA’s activities every year is the annual US-Nepal Technology Development Conference. The goal of this international conference is to leverage the skills and talents of professionals throughout the world, and the United States in particular, to find innovative ways to use technology to address the real-world challenges faced by people in the developing world.

Recently CAN-USA held its second annual US-Nepal Technology Development Conference in Oakland, California. This year’s conference focused on several critical issues facing developing regions of the world. Both Nepal and India have undergone massive transformations in the



last ten years. However in both nations, many people continue to live in several different centuries simultaneously, making the subject matter in this year's conference especially timely.

The topics ranged from: the state of technology in Nepal, the transfer of technology to Nepal, the Green Enterprise, remote education, career management for beginning engineers, and skills of the Diaspora in addressing the technological needs of Nepal.



The Technology in Nepal session featured a live presentation from Kathmandu to the attendees of the conference in California via the internet. Mr. Lochan Lal Amatya, former president of the Computer

Association of Nepal, spoke from Kathmandu, detailing the penetration of key technologies in Nepal, including the use of mobile phones and internet connectivity rate throughout the country.



The Green Enterprise forum highlighted key challenges facing many developing nations such as chemical byproducts from manufacturing plants, and pollution from cooking stoves. New green technologies that convert these chemicals and

natural byproducts to fresh water and energy were introduced by Dr. Andres Wydler, Co-Founder of BPL Global and Instructor at Stanford University.



This year's conference was co-sponsored by the Association of Nepalis in the Americas (ANA). As a result, many college-aged students from throughout the United States converged in Oakland for the ANA activities as well. CAN-USA is also dedicated to the professional development and mentoring of young engineers. The career management forum presented important information from seasoned engineers and senior graduate students to college students. Mr. Nabin Khanal, program manager for Microsoft gave a presentation on job interview preparation. Mr. Biswo Poudel, a PhD student at UC Berkeley gave a presentation on preparing for graduate school applications.



A critical forum focused on the role that the Nepali Diaspora can play in enhancing the visibility of the technological successes achieved in Nepal. Though Nepal produces electronics components for every BMW vehicle in the world, and provides innovative and internationally renowned web portal services via [www.thamel.com](http://www.thamel.com), very little is known to most people about Nepal beyond the recently ended tragic civil war, and its tremendous natural beauty.

Mr. Robert M. Wright, founder and partner of Marketing Arts, Inc. provided effective marketing techniques to use in today's interconnected global economy in announcing the capabilities of a company or a country. He emphasized that the branding of a location must be a sustained effort over a long period of time in order to achieve traction. Mr. Kiran Joshi, CEO of Incessant Rain Studios and Mr. Sandeep Giri, founder and CEO of OpenI both presented their own experiences on this topic from the vantage point of entrepreneurs operating businesses in Kathmandu.



Despite tremendous technological advancements in recent years the challenges facing developing regions remain vast and complex. CAN-USA remains committed in our efforts to use technology in innovative ways to address these challenges. We welcome everyone, both South-Asian and Non-South-Asian, to become a member and convert our passion into results. The conference presentations can be found in [www.can-usa.org](http://www.can-usa.org).