

**The 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on  
Mitigation of Geo-disasters in Asia (MGDA-11)  
22-27 October 2013  
Nepal**

**Second Circular**

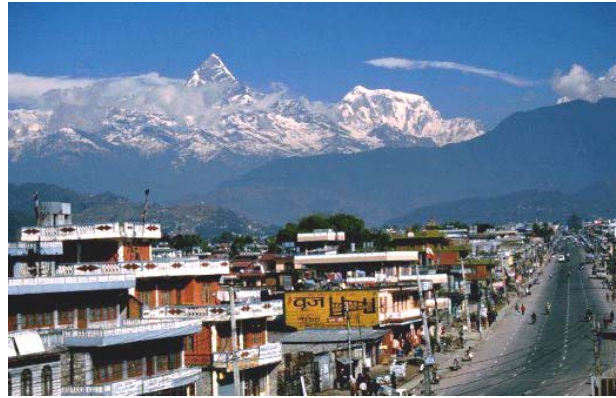
Himalayan Landslide Society (HiLS) together with its partner organizations in Nepal and Japan is going to organize the 11th International Symposium on Mitigation of Geo-disasters in Asia (MGDA-11) in Kathmandu and Pokhara cities of Nepal on 22-27 October 2013. This series of international symposiums has been an instrumental forum for the advancement of geo-disaster mitigation technology in Asia. Geoscientists and geo-engineers from all over the world have largely contributed and benefited from each other during the past MGDA events. The forthcoming event is going to be one more building block to enhance the geo-engineering knowledge and to understand further the geo-disaster phenomena in Asia as well as in the world. This is the first time that an MGDA symposium is going to be held in Nepal, a popular destination for world geo-scientists and tourists. The symposium organizers request all geoscientists and geo-engineers in the field of geo-disasters in Asia and world to submit the registration form/s including all necessary details within the deadline. Your kind cooperation will greatly help us plan and hold this important event successfully. Please register online through <http://www.hils.org.np/hils/index.php/mgda-main>.

**Symposium venues**

MGDA-11 will have two venues for the symposium. The main inaugural symposium will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Kathmandu (<http://www.radisson.com/kathmandu-hotel-np/nepkathm>), which is located in Lazimpat area and is in close proximity of Thamel, one of the famous tourist hubs in Kathmandu, and is conveniently situated for reaching out to most places of interest in the Kathmandu Valley. Then, following a two-day symposium excursion, the second part of the symposium will be held at Hotel Barahi (<http://www.barahi.com/>) of Pokhara city, a popular tourist destination in Nepal and located some 200 km west of Kathmandu. Hotel Barahi is located centrally near the main tourist area (Lakeside) and provides a spectacular view of the white Himalayan mountains to the north.



*Symposium venue I: Kathmandu – the city of temples and world cultural heritages*



*Symposium venue II: Pokhara – the city of lakes and mountains*

### Symposium format

Following the format of the past MGDAs, thematic oral and poster sessions will be held at each symposium venue. Additionally, due to a high number of presentation interests in the Kathmandu symposium, the organizing committee is considering a need of running parallel sessions in Kathmandu. The final decision will be made on the basis of total number of presentation interests received.

The overall symposium program has also been planned to include a total of three excursion tours: two mid-symposium excursions and one post-symposium excursion. The mid-symposium excursion program will be held in between Kathmandu and Pokhara symposiums while the post-symposium excursion will take place in the end and will focus at landslide-related disasters along the national roadway connecting Nepal and Tibet (China).

### Keynote speaker

Prof. Robin Chowdhury, Emeritus Professor of University of Wollongong, Australia has accepted an invitation of the organizers to deliver a keynote lecture in MGDA-11. The title of his lecture will be “Mitigation of Landslide Impacts, Strategies and Challenges for the 21st century.” He is scheduled to deliver his lecture in the Kathmandu symposium.



Prof. Robin Chowdhury

### Important dates

October 22, 2013	Tuesday	Inaugural program followed by technical sessions in Kathmandu; Welcome reception
October 23, 2013	Wednesday	Symposium Excursion (Ex-1) and arrival in Pokhara
October 24, 2013	Thursday	Symposium in Pokhara followed by a symposium banquet
October 25, 2013	Friday	Excursion in and around Pokhara (Ex-2)
October 26, 2013	Saturday	Return to Kathmandu by air; Free time such as for Kathmandu City tour on personal basis
October 27-28, 2013	Sunday-Monday	Post-Symposium Excursion (Ex- 3) to Arniko Highway and Closing of MGDA-11 symposium at Nepal-China border. Participants may go to Lhasa (Tibet) from Nepal-China border or may return to Kathmandu.

## Important deadlines

August 15, 2013	Extended abstract submission deadline
September 1, 2013	Symposium registration and payment of full registration fees
October 1, 2013	Full paper submission
October 15, 2013	Final circular with all details on the symposium program

## Extended abstract and full paper submission

An extended abstract of all to-be-presented papers/works will have to be submitted directly through the online registration page of the symposium while the full paper can be submitted through the online submission system of International Journal of Landslides and Environment (IJLE) at <http://publication.hils.org.np/hilspub/index.php/IJLE>. All submitted extended abstracts will be published in an abstract volume of International Journal of Landslide and Environment (IJLE) and the full papers will be published in a regular volume of IJLE after a peer reviewing process in April 2014.

## Registration

All interested individuals and potential participants are required to submit an online Registration Form within September 1, 2013. The online registration system is available at the symposium website (<http://hils.org.np/hils/index.php/mgda-main>). After receiving a registration number, you may proceed with the confirmed registration for your participation and presentation. You will have two options for the payment of registration fee. Either you use bank transfer system from your bank to our local bank account in Kathmandu, Nepal or you use our online payment system through your credit card available at <http://hils.org.np/hils/index.php/mgda-main>. All major international credit cards will be accepted in the online payment system.

The registration fee is structured in three main categories of participants so as to compromise with the national income level. **An exclusive discount of 20% in the symposium registration fee will be applied on all members of Himalayan Landslide Society (HiLS)**. So, we strongly recommend that you apply for the HiLS membership before registering for the symposium and receive this privilege. Additionally, all student participants will receive 50% reduction in registration fee while there also will be a provision of reduced registration fee in all symposium programs for group registrants.

## Registration fee structure

Participant's category	Registration Fee*				
	Kathmandu program	Pokhara Program	Arniko Highway Program	Kathmandu & Pokhara programs only	All Programs
<i>International participants</i>					
Professionals	US\$ 125	US\$ 225	US\$ 150	US\$ 330	US\$ 450
Students	US\$ 65	US\$ 115	US\$ 75	US\$ 170	US\$ 230
Accompanying members	US\$ 75	US\$ 135	US\$ 115	US\$ 190	US\$ 290
<i>SAARC nation participants</i>					
Professionals	US\$ 80	US\$ 150	US\$ 100	US\$ 220	US\$ 300
Students	US\$ 40	US\$ 75	US\$ 50	US\$ 110	US\$ 150
Accompanying members	US\$ 50	US\$ 90	US\$ 60	US\$ 135	US\$ 180
<i>Domestic participants</i>					
Professionals	NRs. 2500	NRs. 4000	NRs. 3000	NRs. 6000	NRs. 9000
Students	NRs. 1500	NRs. 2000	NRs. 1500	NRs. 3000	NRs. 4500
Institutional registrants	NRs. 5000	NRs. 8000	NRs. 6000	NRs. 12000	NRs. 17000

Discounted registration fee for the international participants (applicable for all program registration only)

Category ( <i>Group Discount</i> )	All Programs			
	4 participants	5 to 8 participants	9 to 12 participants	13 to 20 participants
Registration Fee* per person	US\$ 425	US\$ 420	US\$ 410	US\$ 400

*\*The registration fee includes participation in all oral and poster sessions, a copy of abstract volume, one lunch and one reception dinner in Kathmandu, one lunch and one banquet in Pokhara, one dinner near Nepal-China border during Aniko Highway excursion, and all tea/coffee refreshments during session breaks. It also includes traveling cost involved in Kathmandu–Pokhara trip, field excursion in Pokhara, and field excursion up to Nepal-China border and the cost of lunch packs during the travel/s and excursion/s. It however does not include the cost of any other dinners and accommodations in Kathmandu, Pokhara, and near Nepal-China border. The participants will also have to pay the air fare (about US\$ 100) for Pokhara-Kathmandu flight (on 26 October), which is not included in the registration fee.*

### Field excursions

There will be three field excursions for the symposium participants as detailed out below.

#### ***Excursion Tour-1: Kathmandu-Pokhara Section***

Date: 23 October 2013  
 Departure time: 7:30 AM  
 Excursion leaders: Ranjan Kumar Dahal (Tribhuvan University/HiLS); Netra Prakash Bhandary (Ehime University/HiLS); Hari Krishna Shrestha (Nepal Engineering College/HiLS) and Binod Tiwari (California State University, Fullerton, USA)

In this one day excursion tour along the Kathmandu-Pokhara national roadway, the participants will be taken to one of the geologically fragile areas of central Nepal in the northwestern part of Kathmandu city. Besides familiarizing with the general geology and tectonics of this part of the Himalayan mountains, the participants will have a chance to discuss geo-disasters along the roadway. The participants will also be able to feel the pain of Nepal's road building efforts through low cost road construction technology and associated geo-disasters during this excursion. Some interesting low cost landslide stabilization sites will also be visited. A deluxe bus coach service will be used in travel and a Nepali style lunch will be provided at a Resort Hotel in the middle of the tour.



*Landslides and their mitigation in Kathmandu-Pokhara road section*

#### ***Excursion Tour-2: Geo-disasters around Pokhara Valley***

Date: 25 October 2013 (Duration 1 day)  
 Departure time: 5:00 AM  
 Excursion leaders: Ranjan Kumar Dahal (Tribhuvan University/HiLS); Netra Prakash Bhandary (Ehime University/HiLS); Tuk Lal Adhikari (ITECO Nepal/Nepal Geotechnical Society); Narayan Gurung (Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association/HiLS)

This is one day excursion tour in and around Pokhara valley. In early morning, the participants will have a chance to enjoy the sunrise and a panoramic view of the Annapurna Range on north of Pokhara city. After the breakfast back in the hotel, various landslide and flash flood damage sites in Pokhara valley will be visited. During the tour, the participants will also be explained in general about the geological evolution of the Pokhara valley. Finally, the caves and caverns in the Pokhara valley sediments will be visited in the afternoon. In fact, this part of the tour has always been one of the most popular geological excursions among the international participants during various past geo-science meetings held in Nepal. After participating in the second part of the symposium in Pokhara, the participants will be returning to Kathmandu on 26th morning by air.



*Geo-disasters and caves in Pokhara*

***Excursion Tour-3: Kathmandu-Kodari Highway Section***

Date: 27-28 October 2013 (Two days)  
 Departure time: 8:00 AM  
 Excursion leaders: Tuk Lal Adhikari (ITECO Nepal/Nepal Geotechnical Society);  
 Ranjan Kumar Dahal (Tribhuvan University/HiLS); Netra Prakash Bhandary  
 (Ehime University/HiLS)

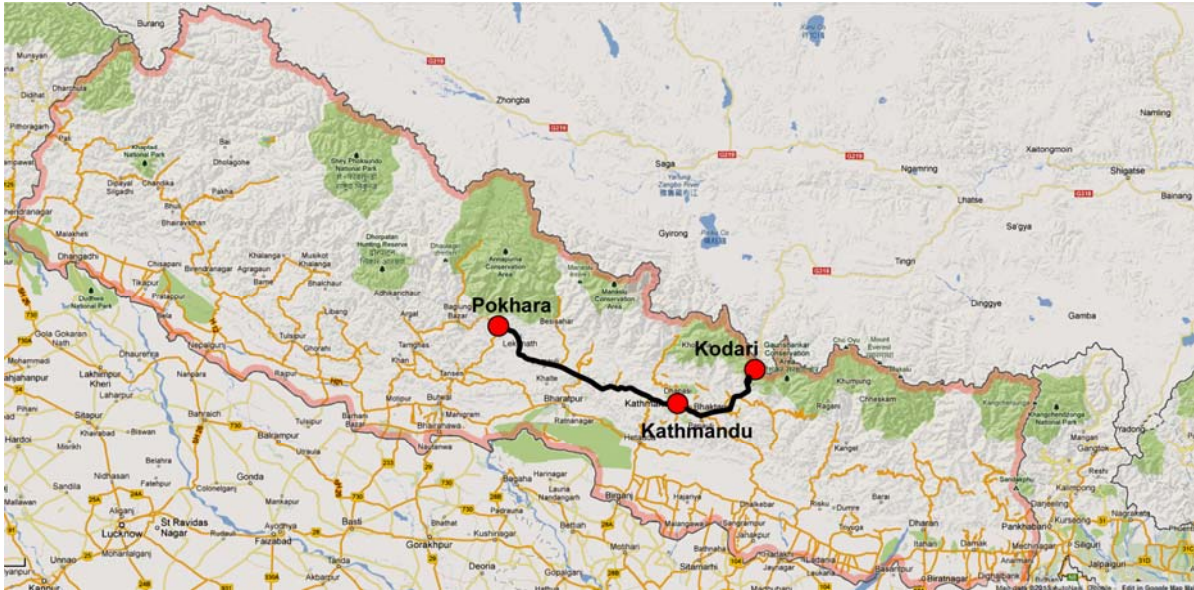
This is a two-day excursion tour along the Arniko national roadway link of Nepal with China and up to Kodari, the northern border point of Nepal with China. This tour will also take place on a deluxe bus from Kathmandu to Kodari. Along the roadway, the participants will observe some landslide and glacial lake outburst flood damages at various locations. Many large-scale landslides and their consequences in the road building process will also be observed. The participants will have to stay at a camp-style resort on 27th, and on the 28th morning, they may enjoy bungee jump in the Bhotekoshi River gorge near the resort. In this excursion, breakfast and lunch packets will be served. In the evening, the participants will have a barbeque cocktail dinner. Then, the participants will either return to Kathmandu on the 28th evening or will enter Tibet from Kodari (Nepal-China border). The details of the bungee jump and the resort of night stay on 27th are available at [www.thelastresort.com.np](http://www.thelastresort.com.np).



*Geo-disasters and their mitigation in Kathmandu-Kodari road section*



*The Last Resort and bungee jump spot*



*Map of Nepal, the symposium venues, and the excursion routes*

### Payment method

As also explained in 'Registration' section, the payment of registration fee will have to be made through a direct bank (wire) transfer or the online payment system available at <http://www.hils.org.np/hils/index.php/mgda-main>. All the fees and costs listed in the 'Registration' section are **net amounts receivable** by the organizer. So, if you are paying through a bank transfer, please consult with your bank for the applicable bank commissions and wire transfer costs or handling charges before you make the transaction. Because of the government regulations on foreign currencies, no personal checks drawn in foreign currencies can be accepted in Nepal.

#### Account details for direct bank transfer (Except for the participants from SAARC nations):

Bank name: Nepal Investment Bank  
 Bank address: New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal  
 Routing number: Please contact [ranjan@ranjan.net.np](mailto:ranjan@ranjan.net.np)  
 Account number: Please contact [ranjan@ranjan.net.np](mailto:ranjan@ranjan.net.np)  
 Account name: Himalayan Landslide Society

The **participants from SAARC nations** shall make the bank transfer of the equivalent amount in their own currencies in the following account number:

Bank name: Nepal Investment Bank  
 Bank address: New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal

Routing number: Please contact ranjan@ranjan.net.np  
Account number: Please contact ranjan@ranjan.net.np  
Account name: Himalayan Landslide Society

**Kindly remember to provide YOUR REGISTRATION NUMBER and YOUR NAME under “SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS” section. Without this information, it will not be possible for us to identify the sender.**

*Please also note: When you plan to pay through bank transfer, a scanned copy of the bank transaction document must be submitted as attachment when you submit your online Final Registration Form.*

*On-spot registration will also be available, but a special request for on-spot registration will have to be made for a written approval by one of the co-conveners.*

### **Cancellation and refund policy**

Cancellation and refund policy for a situation when a participant needs to cancel his/her participation for some unavoidable circumstances is as follows.

#### **Cancellation of Symposium Participation Registration:**

**Cancellation before 1<sup>st</sup> October:** Full refund of the applicable fee amount (after deducting the applicable bank commission and wire transfer costs).

**Cancellation after 1<sup>st</sup> October, but before 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2013:** Only 50% refund of the applicable fee amount (after deducting the applicable bank commission and wire transfer costs). For the refund of credit card payment, Himalayan Landslide Society will follow the refund policy of PayPal online payment system ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)) and will refund only 50% of the applicable fee.

**After 8<sup>th</sup> October:** There will be NO refund.

### **Accommodation booking arrangement**

For the accommodation in the symposium venue hotels in Kathmandu as well as Pokhara, the organizers will make reservations for the requesting participant/s. However, we have also assigned all other hotel booking-related things and reservation of individual travel needs in Kathmandu as well as Pokhara to a local travel agency (Tashi Delek Nepal Treks and Expedition P. Ltd.). Participants may book their private trips and/or sight seeing package/s through this travel agency.

Participants planning to visit Tibet after the symposium and/or willing for self arrangement of the accommodation as well as personal sight seen plan may communicate with:

Sailendra Shrestha (Mr.)  
Executive Director  
Tashi Delek Nepal Treks and Expedition P. Ltd  
Mobile Phone: +977-98510 37917  
Phone: +977-1-4410746, 4419200  
Fax: +977-1-4412180  
Email: [tashidele@mail.com.np](mailto:tashidele@mail.com.np); [tashidele@wlink.com.np](mailto:tashidele@wlink.com.np)  
Web: [www.tashidelektreks.com.np](http://www.tashidelektreks.com.np)

The organizers have requested Tashi Delek Nepal Treks and Expedition to arrange hotel and Tibet tour as per the request from MGDA-11 participants in a competitive price. Please write Mr. Shrestha directly and give us a carbon copy (CC) of your message to mgda11@hils.org.np for our record.

### Climate

Climate in Kathmandu and Pokhara in the end of October is generally pleasant but may be slightly cold depending on the weather variation. Mornings and evenings are often cold, but the day time is pleasantly warm. It is advised that the participants bring a few warm clothes.

### Passport and visa requirement

All foreigners are required to have a valid passport and visiting visa to enter Nepal. For visitors from most countries, visa on arrival is granted at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. Interested participants are advised to contact the Nepalese Embassy or Consulate office in your country/ies so as to find out the exact requirement for your country. For participants from India, a valid identification or passport is sufficient and they do not need visa to travel in Nepal.

### Nepalese participants

All potential Nepalese participants are requested to visit [www.hils.org.np](http://www.hils.org.np) or contact the organizers at [info@hils.org.np](mailto:info@hils.org.np) or visit the MGDA-11 Secretariat for details on the registration procedure.

### Mobile (Cell) phone service in Nepal

Telephonic communication from Nepal to all foreign nations is comparatively inexpensive. Two companies, Nepal Telecom and Ncell, provide mobile and roaming service in Nepal. Temporary pre-paid type SIM card from either of these two companies can be purchased on arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport. The purchase counter is located on the passage way when you come out after collecting your baggage and before you exit the terminal building. You need a copy of your passport and passport size photograph to get the SIM card. For details, please visit the homepage of Nepal Telecom (<http://www.ntc.net.np/>) or Ncell (<http://www.ncell.com.np/>). These companies provide internet service in mobile phone or through phone to computer, if your mobile set has standard modem facility.

### Additional activities in Pokhara

The mornings (6:30 to 9:30) of October 25 and 26 in Pokhara are allocated for extra activities. The participants may enjoy a light-weight airplane flight or power glider to view Pokhara and Annapurna Range in the morning. Early booking of these flights is necessary. Please visit <http://aviacclubnepal.com/> and book your flight either for morning of 25th or 26th of October 2013. You may also write to co-convenor (Nepal side) or the symposium secretary directly about your plan and we will make reservation for you.



*Pleasure of sky adventure in Pokhara*



## International access to Kathmandu

Kathmandu is connected with various cities of Asia and Europe. It has direct flights from the following countries and cities:

1. Chengdu, Kunming, Guangzhou (China)
2. Hong Kong
3. Delhi, Calcutta, Banaras (India),
4. Abu Dhabi and Dubai (United Arab Emirates)
5. Doha (Qatar)
6. Amsterdam (Netherlands)
7. Singapore
8. Bangkok (Thailand)
9. Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
10. Seoul (South Korea)

Guangzhou is the best and shortest transit hub from Japan to fly to Kathmandu while from Europe, Doha is the best and shortest transit hub.



## Organizers

*Lead Organizer:* Himalayan Landslide Society (HiLS)

*Prime Sponsor:* International Consortium on Geo-disaster Reduction (ICGdR)

*Associated Partners:* Research and Education Center on Natural Hazards, Shimane University  
Ehime University, Japan  
School of Environmental Design, Kanazawa University, Japan  
Department of Geology, Tri-Chandra Campus (Tribhuvan University)  
Nepal Geotechnical Society  
Himalayan Conservation Group  
National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)

Nepal Engineering College (*nec*)  
Center of Resilience Development (CoRD)  
Kagawa University, Japan  
Shikoku Branch of the Japanese Geotechnical Society

#### *Organizing Committee*

Chair: Hari Krishna Shrestha, President HiLS (Professor, Nepal Engineering College)  
Co-conveners: Ranjan Kumar Dahal (Nepal-side), Associate Professor, Tribhuvan University  
Netra Prakash Bhandary (Japan-side), Assistant Professor, Ehime University

Symposium Secretary: Manita Timilsina, HiLS

Members: Dinesh Pathak, Associate Professor, Tribhuvan University/HiLS  
Kishor Kumar Bhattarai, GoN Department of Irrigation/HiLS  
Jishnu Subedi, Assistant Professor, Institute of Engineering/HiLS  
Youb Raj Paudyal, GoN Department of Education/HiLS  
Narayan Gurung, Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association/HiLS  
Prahlaad Baniya, HiLS

#### *Advisory Members*

Bishal Nath Upreti (Prof. Dr.), Tribhuvan University, Nepal  
Balmukunda Regmi (Prof. Dr.), Tribhuvan University, Nepal  
Hari Darshan Shrestha (A/Prof.), Tribhuvan University, Nepal  
Tara Nidhi Bhattarai (A/Prof. Dr.), Tribhuvan University, Nepal  
Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal  
Tuk Lal Adhikari, Managing Director, ITECO, Nepal (President, Nepal Geotechnical Society)  
Gangalal Tuladhar, Chairman, Himalaya Conservation Group, Nepal  
Ryuichi Yatabe (Prof. Dr.), Ehime University, Japan  
Ikuo Towhata (Prof. Dr.), The University of Tokyo, Japan  
Mitsu Okamura (Prof. Dr.), Ehime University, Japan  
Masakatsu Miyajima (Prof. Dr.), Kanazawa University, Japan  
Fawu Wang (Prof. Dr.), Shimane University, Japan  
Shuichi Hasegawa (Prof. Dr.), Kagawa University, Japan  
Hemanta Hazarika (Prof. Dr.), Kyushu University, Japan  
Ko Fei Liu (Prof. Dr.), National Taiwan University, Taiwan  
Tonglu Li (Prof. Dr.), Chang'an University, China  
Wei Shan (Prof. Dr.), Northeast Forestry University, China  
Lei Nie (Prof. Dr.), Jilin University, China  
Teuku Faisal Fathani (A/Prof. Dr.), Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia  
Binod Tiwari (A/Prof. Dr.), California State University, Fullerton, USA

#### **Contact details**

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Co-convener (Nepal-side)  
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Netra Prakash Bhandary (Dr.)

Co-convener (Japan-side)

Email: netra@ehime-u.ac.jp

Phone: +81-90 3785 5836 (Japan Mobile), +977-9849 242727 (Nepal Mobile, only on 22-28 October 2013)

Manita Timilsina (Dr.)

Symposium Secretary

Email: manitatimilsina@gmail.com, mgda11@hils.org.np

Phone: +977-98511 54970