



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting 9th EC Meeting held on Sunday, June 11, 2023; 7:00 - 8:15 PM CST

Executive Committee

President

Dr. Pradeep Wagle

Vice President

Dr. Ramjee P. Ghimire

General Secretary

Dr. Nityananda Khanal

Joint Secretary

Dr. Sushil Thapa

Treasurer

Dr. Bishwo Adhikari

Members

Dr. Buddhi Gyawali

Dr. Dev Paudel

Mr. Dol P. Dhakal

Dr. Kripa Dhakal

Dr. Pramod Pokhrel

Dr. Uma Karki

Dr. Megha N. Parajulee,

Immediate Past

President

Attendance

Attendees	Pradeep Wagle, Ramjee Ghimire, Sushil Thapa, Bishwo Adhikari, Dev Paudel, Pramod Pokhrel, Uma Karki, Kripa Dhakal
Informed in absentia	Nityananda Khanal, Buddhi Gyawali, Megha N. Parajulee
Uninformed in absentia	Dol P. Dhakal
Invitee	Lila B. Karki

President Dr. Pradeep Wagle welcomed the meeting attendees and stated the meeting on the following agenda items. The meeting was fully focused on planning for the forthcoming NAPA Conference 2024.

- 1. Review of past conferences:** NAPA Conference 2024 organizing committee chair Dr. Lila B. Karki highlighted the past three conferences regarding the number of participants, fundraising, abstract submissions, etc. Based on the past review, he presented some strategies as below:
 - a) To nominate the scientific committee chair from the GJAAS editorial board so that he/she can track down the quality of presentations and ask presenters to submit the full paper for GJAAS.
 - b) Prepare or update the NAPA brochure for advertisement and outreach.
 - c) All EC members take responsibility for participating in various conference-related activities for increasing attraction and motivation.
- 2. Room rates and contract:** Treasurer Dr. Bishwo Adhikari updated that after the series of discussions and two on-site visits, Maritime Conference Center (MCC) near Baltimore BWI airport, Maryland has been decided as the conference venue. He highlighted the information presented by Dr. Karki, including the hotel room rate of \$165.00 single and \$210.00 double (plus tax) per night (which includes breakfast and dinner), and the daytime package of \$80 per person/day (which includes late AM snacks, lunch, afternoon snacks, and coffee/water, and conference facilities).

Dr. Adhikari was suggested making the necessary arrangements and signing the paperwork with the hotel authority ASAP.

3. Mode of the conference: Dr. Wagle presented the hybrid mode of the conference and discussed the “limited virtual” option. According to him:

- All virtual presentations will be pre-recorded.
- Pre-recorded submissions can be in both oral and poster formats.
- Virtual presentations will not be played for in-person participants during the conference.
- Pre-recorded virtual presentations will be uploaded on the conference website and available to conference registrants for watching once the conference begins and also available after the conference for certain time.
- All virtual submission presenting authors must pay the registration fee by the deadline.
- Virtual participants/registrants can watch the conference live.

These ideas were acknowledged by the meeting participants. Some other options were also discussed/suggested such as:

- Open virtual option only for international participants?
- Should not include in-person and virtual presenters in the same competition using the same rubrics.
- Not to include virtual presenters in poster/oral competition.

The meeting decided to discuss on these suggestions in the following conference meetings and finalize them.

4. EC’s target for NAPA Conference 2024: Dr. Wagle presented the target for NAPA Conference 2024 as below:

- a) Number of participants - 150
- b) Number of abstracts – no limit for virtual, 100 for in-person
- b) Conference estimated cost: \$20,000.00
- c) Fundraising target: \$25,000.00

It was suggested to focus on the Nepalese community and big businesses in the Baltimore area for fundraising. Printing T-shirts was also proposed to symbolize the place of Under Armor’s HQ in Baltimore.

5. Expansion of Conference Organizing Committee (COC), including conference secretary and chairs for some major sub-committees: It was discussed and suggested to announce the “call for interest” among the NAPA members ASAP. The call will ask members to express their interest in serving on conference committees. NAPA will select the right candidate for the right position from the list of interested ones. At the same time, NAPA will compile the names of potential members to serve on various committees.

Dr. Ramjee Ghimire was requested to prepare/update the call and send it to the NAPA members ASAP.

Finally, NAPA Vice President Dr. Ghimire delivered closing remarks thanking all participants for meritorious discussions. He also shared his efforts in selling NAPA books at various institutions in Nepal and was committed to updating the current status.

Minutes prepared by Joint-secretary Dr. Sushil Thapa.