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**Rajesh P Dhakal** received a Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering from Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 1993 with a gold medal, a Master of Engineering degree with specialization in Structural Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in 1997 with another gold medal, and a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Tokyo in 2000. Currently, he is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering at the University of Canterbury, where he has been working since 2003.

Dr Dhakal's teaching and research involvements are in the areas of Structural and Earthquake Engineering. He has authored more than 170 technical papers in the areas of reinforced concrete, earthquake engineering, and structural fire engineering. He is a member of several national and international professional organizations and has served as a reviewer for a number of International journals in Structural and Earthquake Engineering disciplines. Currently, he is an Associate Editor for the ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering, and an Editorial Board member of four other International journals in Civil Engineering.

Dr Dhakal is serving in the management committee of the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering (NZSEE) and he is also a Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng) in NZ. He was extensively involved in evaluating buildings in Christchurch after the 2010 September and 2011 February earthquakes, and has since been actively dissipating information on performance of buildings in these earthquakes to the professionals and public through different media. Along with other fellow Engineers, Dr Dhakal has been awarded the IPENZ President's award (Fulton Downer Gold Medal) for an outstanding engineering service to the community. He has also received four best paper awards, three best academic performance awards, and two best researcher awards including the prestigious Ivan Skinner award in 2007 for the advancement of earthquake engineering research in NZ.