

EDITORIAL

Rajesh P Dhakal¹

I feel privileged to be writing as the Editor of the Bulletin on this third issue of its 50th Volume. In its golden jubilee year, the Bulletin is well on track to publish four unique issues.

I hope you have managed to go through some papers from the previous issue, which was a special issue on *2016 Kaikoura Earthquakes*. Given the *Kaikoura Earthquake Sequence* started in November 2016, it is an outstanding achievement that we managed to publish, within 7 months after the earthquake, a comprehensive special issue covering diverse aspects of the Earthquakes. What makes the previous issue even more special is the fact that the peer review process was not compromised and an accelerated but robust review process was followed to publish the issue within such a short timeframe. I have received several positive feedbacks on this issue from our readers; and I would hereby like to pass on the compliments to the Guest Editors Dr Liam Wotherspoon, Prof Alessandro Palermo and Dr Caroline Holden. Congratulations to all three of you, your hard work has resulted in a masterpiece!

In addition to the guest editors, I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to all authors and reviewers not just for your valuable support, but also for sticking to the tight deadlines. I am sure this special issue will be of great interest to earthquake engineers throughout the world. Following on from the *Canterbury Earthquakes* special issues (*December 2010* issue published astonishingly only 3 months after the *Darfield Earthquake* and the *December 2011* issue published 10 months after the *Lyttleton Earthquake*), this *Kaikoura Earthquakes* special issue has added another feather in the cap of the Bulletin.

The current issue (*September 2017*) is dedicated to the NZSEE's commitment (in partnership with EQC, the Earthquake Commission) to *Learning from Earthquakes* (LFE) program. In the past, the Bulletin has published reconnaissance reports from different LFE missions (Maule, Padang, Wenchuan, Napa to name a few recent ones). In the same vein, this issue publishes earthquake reconnaissance reports from three LFE missions commissioned by NZSEE last year; thereby making this issue an unannounced *Special Issue on LFE*. This *LFE Special Issue* was originally scheduled for June 2017, but had to be postponed because of the *Kaikoura Earthquakes Special Issue* which understandably took precedence over the *LFE Special Issue*.

Out of the three reports included in this issue, two are on Geotechnical and Building damages observed in *2016 Kumamoto (Japan) Earthquake* and the third report is on the *2016 Meinong (Taiwan) Earthquake*. These reports are co-authored by the NZSEE LFE reconnaissance team members who visited Taiwan and Kumamoto after the respective earthquakes in 2016 and their Japanese or Taiwanese counterparts who facilitated and participated in the investigations. Despite the three reports published herein being distinctly different from typical technical articles, no

compromise was made on the robust peer review process. All three reports were peer-reviewed by at least two reviewers, out of which at least one was an Earthquake Engineering expert from Japan/Taiwan where the earthquakes occurred.

The first report describes the ground damage observed after the *Kumamoto Earthquake*. It provides a comprehensive account of the landslides, rock falls and liquefaction damages observed in the region. The second report provides a summary of damage observed to different types of buildings and building components and appends damage reports of several buildings in Kumamoto and surrounding cities. To enable NZ readers to put the reported building performance in context, it compares the building design standards and residual capacity assessment guidelines used in Japan and NZ. The third report provides a comprehensive summary of ground, infrastructure and building damages observed in the *2016 Meinong (Taiwan) Earthquake*. It also presents a summary of Taiwan's seismicity, history of seismic design practice in Taiwan together with different aspects of the post-earthquake recovery phase and the societal impacts of the earthquake. I am sure, despite the slight delay in publishing this special issue, readers will find these reports very informative and useful.

To cap the Golden Jubilee year of the Bulletin, the next issue (*December 2017*) will be a special issue on seismic behaviour and design of RC buildings, which will be edited by Professor Toshimi Kabeyasawa from the University of Tokyo and Dr Rick Henry from University of Auckland. We have received submissions from researchers in NZ, Japan and Australia covering an interesting range of topics within the theme of seismic behaviour of RC structures. The review process of the papers for this special issue is almost complete, and I am eagerly looking forward to this issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to also share a good news with you all. After a rigorous evaluation process, the Bulletin has now been accepted to be indexed in the *Emerging Source Citation Index* (ESCI). With this decision, all papers published in the Bulletin's 50th Volume (and later) will be listed in the *Web of Science* Database. This now completes the process of making the Bulletin papers appear in all important citation databases like *Web of Science*, *Scopus*, *Google Scholar* etc. While this is an important milestone in the international visibility and recognition of the bulletin, this puts an onus on us to maintain its standard and further extend its reach. Obviously, this would not be possible without your contribution, and I look forward to your continued support in the days to come.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Rajesh Dhakal, PhD, FIPENZ, FNZSEE
Editor-in-Chief, Bulletin of the NZSEE

¹ Editor, Bulletin of the NZSEE, rajesh.dhakal@canterbury.a.c.nz (Fellow)

