



Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction: Lessons from Pakistan, New Zealand, Nepal, Albania and Syria

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EERI, New England Chapter, Lecture Series

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The Zoom Seminar is FREE!

For registration, please visit:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEscuuspjMoG9K0hH_AYmBnQqbaZ80185k2

Abstract: Disasters—both natural and man-made—pose profound challenges to communities worldwide, significantly disrupting socio-economic structures and daily lives. Every disaster recovery presents specific challenges, yet common elements exist in rebuilding infrastructure and restoring daily life. For example, the M7.8 earthquake in Nepal in 2015 left 3.3 million people without homes, requiring a large effort to rebuild, often in hard-to-reach places with few resources. Similarly, the floods in Pakistan in 2022 meant that recovery plans had to be made for about two million homes spread across a wide area. These events underscore the multifaceted nature of disaster recovery, which extends beyond mere structural rebuilding to encompass socio-political, financial, and technical challenges within culturally specific contexts. Effective disaster recovery programs require a nuanced understanding of affected communities' unique needs alongside the implementation of customized solutions that facilitate a swift and sustainable return to normalcy. This presentation delves into the recovery initiatives in Pakistan, New Zealand, Nepal, Albania, and Syria, focusing on how local capabilities, international support, governance, and community engagement contribute to resilient outcomes.

Biography: Jitendra Bothara is a Fellow of Engineering from New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering and Nepal Engineers' Association. He is a Director of Resipro International Engineering Limited, a New Zealand based company. With three decades of experience in seismic engineering and disaster risk mitigation, he has led teams for pre and post-earthquake assessment, as well as post-earthquake reconstruction in many countries. Jitendra has co-authored and published many publications in earthquake engineering, including various building standards, guidelines and manuals, and has helped develop earthquake engineering research facilities. Jitendra has served as advisor to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Government of Nepal and the United Nations Development Programme on DRR, earthquake recovery and reconstruction in Nepal and other countries. He is an ardent believer in identifying linkages between socio-economy and seismic engineering and linking traditional practice and knowledge with modern knowledge and engineering for seismic safety. His interests include translating research and complex engineering concepts into implementation tools and disseminating technology, vernacular and heritage construction, and socio-cultural and economic issues.