

Professor Dr. Padma Bahadur Shahi, P.Eng. (NPL)

Chairman, Nepal Engineering Council

Prof. Dr. Padma Bahadur Shahi is a distinguished Professional Engineer, academic leader, and internationally recognized expert in road safety and traffic engineering. With over three decades of distinguished experience spanning academia, government advisory roles, and multilateral project implementation, he has significantly shaped national transport infrastructure and safety standards in Nepal. Currently serving his second term as the Chairman of the Nepal Engineering Council, Prof. Shahi continues to spearhead regulatory excellence and professional standards for engineers nationwide.

Academic Background & Research

Prof. Shahi's rigorous academic field in highway traffic engineering is underscored by advanced international research credentials:

- Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship (2003–2005): Kyoto University, Japan (supported by the prestigious Japan Society for the Promotion of Science - JSPS).
- Ph.D. in Roads and Airfield Construction (1998): Moscow State Automobile and Road Construction Institute (Technical University), Russia.
- M.Sc. in Highway Engineering (1994): Specialized Course on the Highway design and traffic engineering.

He has contributed extensively to the global body of knowledge with over 60 research publications focusing on traffic studies and design, pavement engineering, and comprehensive Road Safety Audits.

Professional Experience & Leadership

Prof. Shahi's career demonstrates a seamless integration of high-level academic administration and Professional Practices in Highway and Traffic Engineering:

- Chairman, Nepal Engineering Council (2023–Present): leading the national regulatory frameworks, policy formulation, and professional licensing for engineers during since 2023.
- Road Safety & Monitoring Specialist, SRCTIP (2021–2026): Led monitoring, evaluation, and capacity-building initiatives for the World Bank-funded Strategic Road Connectivity and Trade Improvement Project. Similarly, leading role in the road safety for Highway design and construction supervision projects.
- Technical Advisor, department of Transport management (DoTM) from 2016 to 2021: Guided the implementation of the World Bank-funded Nepal-India Regional Trade and Transport Project (NITTTR) under the Department of Transport Management.

- Professor and Academic Leadership, Pokhara University (2010–2016): Served as a full-time Professor and held leading administrative leadership roles, including Assistant Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology (starting 2010), following earlier academic engagements beginning in 1999.
- Consultancy & Advisory: Provided intermittent expert input and road safety advisory services for various national projects under the Department of Roads.

Honors and Awards

Prof. Shahi's exceptional contributions to science, technology, and academia have been recognized through several high-ranking national honors:

- *Mahendra Vidya Bhusan (Classes A and B)*: A prestigious national academic honor conferred by the Government of Nepal to top-ranking Master's (Class B) and Ph.D. (Class A) scholars for exceptional academic excellence.
- *Rashtriya Pratibha Puraskar (2057 BS)*: A distinguished national science and technology award presented by the Government of Nepal in recognition of his significant contributions to scientific advancement and research.
- *"Crown Prince Dipendra" Young Scientist Award (2058 BS)*: Conferred by the then Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (RONAST—now the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, NAST) in recognition of his pioneering research in traffic engineering, specifically focused on the design and safety of hill roads.

Professional Affiliations & Certifications

- Chairman (2023–Present) & Member, Nepal Engineering Council
- President (2018–2024) & Founder Executive Member, Society of Transport Engineers Nepal (SOTEN)
- Member, Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation (MCIHT, since 2024)