

## **Biography of Hamid Reza Ronagh**

Born in Yazd, Iran in September 1965, he lived in his home country, Iran to the age of 24 where he also completed his bachelor degree at Isfahan university of Technology. Hamid ranked first with a GPA of 90.4% was rewarded with the university medal of honour and a full scholarship to continue his studies overseas at the Masters level. Using that scholarship he came to Australia and did his masters of structural Engineering at the University of New South Wales. He again, ranked as the top graduate and was offered an IPRS scholarship from UNSW to stay for his PhD. A Similar offer was also made by the University of Queensland. Using the former, he did his PhD under Dr Mark Bradford (Now, Scientia Professor and Laureate Professor of Structural Engineering at UNSW), he started his PhD, late 1992 and had his thesis on “Distortional Buckling of Tapered Beams” passed “as is” in 1996. He returned to his home country for 3 years where he worked as an academic but came back to Australia in 1999 to permanently join academia here.

He is currently a senior lecturer at the School of Civil Engineering. He has graduated 5 PhD students in the past and currently supervises 7 students in different areas including Strengthening of Structures using Advanced Composites, Subsea Pipeline Repair, and Lateral Performance of Cold-Formed Light Gauge Steel Buildings. He has published actively with over 70 ISI journal papers and has been active at the international scene with over 75 International conference papers. He is the recipient of one of the largest ARC discovery grants in Civil Engineering together with Australian Laureate fellow, Prof. Mark Bradford and Prof. Brian Uy, in the year 2000 to study spatially curved bridge girders.

He has been involved with impressive high end consulting projects such as the design of cable roof of Olympic 2000 stadium in Australia and high density skyscrapers overseas. He has been the first person to promote the idea of Light-gauge Steel Framing (LSF) in the earthquake devastated city of Bam of Iran in 2003, a natural disaster of horrific proportions that took the lives of 25000 people mostly as a result of traditional extra heavy construction methods. It shocked the whole world and brought so many different countries and international aid agencies together for help. Due to his efforts, and long negotiations with local investors and international charity organisations, a fully-automated large-scale, Australian-made production facility was eventually exported to Iran to change the traditional method of construction. Through continued activities and the synergistic interest generated via his talks at almost every national event since, there exists now over 50 operational plants, a published national code and over 200 000 square meter of construction (valued at \$65 million) underway using the system in Iran and several in the neighbouring countries in the Middle East. He is regularly invited to present talks, workshops and short courses on the design of light steel frames. He has been named as the father of LSF in the Middle East by a number of local media.

His research interests at the moment are closely focused on retrofitting of structures using advanced composite materials.