Foreword

Terrorist threats are on a rise on our population and built environment. The strategies and weapons used by the terrorist are becoming complex with time. For the sustenance of our civilization, counter terrorism efforts are required at all national levels. Hence, understanding of the subject of terrorist hazards and the associated mitigation strategies is a high priority for all countries. Since the subject involves a spectrum of technical disciplines relevant to engineers, the engineering community must take this up formally. To this end, I am pleased to note that the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) and the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) at IIT Kanpur hosted a National Seminar on "Engineering Response to Hazards of Terrorism" during 25-26 September 2006 at IIT Kanpur.

This proceedings volume is a collection of some pertinent thoughts of eminent engineers of the country, which were tabled during the said National Seminar. It is hoped that this modest beginning by INAE and NICEE will throw light on a nationally relevant problem and inspire the engineering community to dedicate themselves to the issues involved in making India safer from the threats of terrorism. In particular, changes are required at the level of curriculum in technical institutes/universities and R&D efforts at the national institutes/laboratories. I congratulate INAE and NICEE for initiating work to address a crisis that India is faced within.

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