

Editors' Message

In recent years, there has been an alarming increase in terrorist activities globally and it seems that this problem is here to stay. The society therefore must learn to cope with terrorism in the long term. Towards this, many engineering interventions may be possible to prevent or minimize impact of terrorist activity. For instance, it should be possible to incorporate certain features in the planning, design and construction of a building, so that firstly the building is not easily accessible for terrorists and secondly, the effect of terrorist activities such as explosions are limited within the local area and progressive collapse of the building is prevented.

With the above view, the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) at IIT Kanpur and the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) organized a *National Seminar on Engineering Response to Hazards of Terrorism* during 25-26 September 2006 at IIT Kanpur. The purpose was to enable the concerned professionals to share information and ideas, and to develop an agenda for new work in this important area. Seminar themes included:

- Terrorist related hazard estimation,
- Architectural and civil engineering mitigation measures,
- Non-structural mitigation measures, and
- Sensors and devices/systems for hazard detection

Sponsorship of the Seminar by the following organizations is gratefully acknowledged:

- Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi
- Prabhu Goel Research Centre for Computer and Internet Security (IIT Kanpur)
- National Programme on Earthquake Engineering Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India)
- Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS), Mumbai
- Indo-US Science & Technology Forum, New Delhi
- Defense Research and Development Organization, New Delhi
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Mumbai
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi

The seminar enabled about 70 professionals and academicians to get together for an intense discussion on this agenda. A number of papers were presented in addition to several panel discussions. These led to a set of recommendations which are given in the Executive Summary.

This volume contains the articles or the power point presentations made during the seminar in the hope that the professionals interested in this subject may find these useful for their work. Also, it is hoped that some of the recommendations of the workshop will help spur research and development activity in this important area in our country. The problem of minimizing impact of terrorism related incidents can no longer be ignored by the engineering community.

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