

Editorial

Recent developments in research on different types of environmental and human induced actions on structures have resulted in major revisions to loading Standards in Australia, as in many other countries around the world. It is highly desirable that practising engineers are well aware of the developments and appreciate the evolving knowledge base and the underlying concepts. Textbooks on structural engineering typically devote most of the attention to how a structure reacts to loading in a generic sense rather than the loading itself. This is partly due to the very specialized nature of the topics that deal with the nature of different types of loading and their estimation for design purposes. *Standards* and the *Commentary* are also not intended as an educational/professional development tool by the very nature of such documents.

Recognizing this, the *Electronic Journal of Structural Engineering* presents this special issue on *Loadings* which contains review articles covering the important topics of *fire, earthquakes, wind, waves, blasts and impact*. In addition, there is an article devoted entirely to load-rating of bridges and a paper introducing the regulatory framework for Australia. The review articles are presented in such a manner that they will be of benefit to practising engineers with no prior specialized knowledge on the respective disciplines and to researchers looking for a compact state-of-the-art review.

On behalf of the Journal, we wish to thank all those who responded to our invitations and contributed to such high quality articles and to a team of anonymous reviewers who have facilitated the progression of the manuscripts to the final form. Above all, the editorial has the honour of having *Professor Len Stevens* to write the *Foreword* for the special issue.

Nelson Lam
Priyan Mendis
Tuan Ngo
Editors of special issue