Foreword

The theme of this Special Issue of the Electronic Journal of Structural Engineering (EJSE) is "Earthquake Engineering in the low and moderate seismic regions of Southeast Asia and Australia".

Undoubtedly this is a very important and a very topical issue in the field of Earthquake Engineering. For decades now, seismic hazard assessment and seismic design have been heavily based on ground motion characteristics and experiences accumulated in plate-margin areas, where data tend to be more abundant. The pioneering work of Gail Atkinson and others had, however, clearly indicated that ground motion characteristics in low-to-moderate seismicity regions in the intra-plate environment could be significantly different from those in the inter-plate environment, in terms of frequency contents, time-histories, focal depths, seismotectonic settings, etc. This obviously would impact on seismic design of buildings and structures. Meanwhile, many countries in regions of low-to-moderate seismicity to this date do not have any seismic provisions for building and design.

It is therefore entirely prudent and timely to produce this Special Issue of EJSE, in order to enable our design engineers to appreciate the seimic hazard and ground motion characteristics of such low-to-moderate seismicity regions, and to guide them in their design work.

The initiative and efforts of the Editor in this regard are thus highly recommendable.

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