Editorial: Message from the New Editor-in-Chief

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It is my pleasure and honour to serve as the next Editor-in-chief of the Indian Geotechnical Journal. The journal provides a forum for new advances in geotechnical engineering research and practice that spans a wide swath of topics. I express my sincere thanks to the parting Editor-in-chief, Prof. G. L. Sivakumar Babu, for leading the journal for six long years. I was a part of this exciting journey as the Associate Editor. Thanks to Prof. K. S. Rao, the then president of Indian Geotechnical Society and his successor presidents Prof. G. N. Gandhi and Prof. A. Sreerama Rao, for choosing us to be the editors of the journal and trusting us with this great responsibility. It was Prof. Babu's inspiration in the beginning of 2011 that there is a need for publishing the journal online with a renowned publisher to expand the horizons and bring greater visibility. After several fruitful discussions, we started publishing with Springer from 2012, which gave the journal an international presence. Looking today, the journal is published electronically and in print, outputs 4 issues per year, each with 10–12 articles. It is indexed in SCOPUS and SCImago and has established itself as a major journal in the field of Geotechnical Engineering. All members of the Indian Geotechnical Society have free access to the contents of the journal. I greatly appreciate Ms. Swati Meherishi and her publishing team at Springer, for their enthusiastic support and timely communications to keep us on track.

In the past 2 years, the quality of papers published in the journal is substantially improved and number of submissions to the journal increased. Major success of the journal

came from its still-growing database of authors and readers in tandem and dedicated Editorial Board Members from different countries, who contributed their research and helped in the process of reviews and special issues of the journal, which provided a fillip to reach out to wide audience across the World.

It is now my pleasant duty to lead the journal along with my younger and most energetic colleague Prof. Deepankar Choudhury as the Associate Editor. We cordially welcome the new members of the Editorial Board and look forward to an excellent collaboration with the new and continuing members of the Editorial Board. Together, we will work hard to enhance the quality of papers, reduce the turnaround time for manuscripts, increase the publication frequency, provide fair and meaningful reviews and smoothen the editorial management process. We wish to take the journal in a direction where it encompasses all the emerging areas, reflecting the practice-oriented approach, which is an essential link between academic research and professional practice. Our main objective will be to strengthen the boundaries of the journal, to strengthen the reviewer database, and to motivate potential authors to contribute to the journal. In parallel, we all should join hands in preventing plagiarism, duplicate articles and unreliable research. I invite the authors to submit original and first-hand articles, which will help to achieve our goal of obtaining an Impact Factor for the journal to maintain the relevance of the journal in a highly competitive field. We are looking forward to work with you all closely to enhance the reputation of the journal and promote scholarly development of research in geotechnical engineering and its practice.

In closing, it is a privilege to work with you all and serve the geotechnical engineering fraternity. I welcome you all to share your thoughts and suggestions so that IGJ can continue growing its impact and visibility over coming years.

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