



## Preface

The COSPAR Symposium A0.3 on “Natural and Manmade Hazards Management Using Space Technology” held during 34th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, the second World Space Congress, Houston, TX, USA, 10–19 October 2002, received a good response.

The present issue contains 20 papers related to the use of multi sensors data in monitoring of natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, rockslides, erosion and droughts. Some of the papers cover mapping of damages and changes after the earthquakes; others cover the use of multi sensors data in change detection related to snow avalanches and changes in ocean and atmospheric parameters due to earthquakes.

A paper using airborne laser scanning data presents the automatic building extraction for disaster management thus presenting new concepts for storing buildings data from highly seismic prone areas so that a damage assessment can be completed within no time using airborne laser scanner after the occurrence of disaster.

The integration of remote sensing data and GIS techniques has been demonstrated in monitoring and mapping of forests. A paper presents the concept of new thinking of the activation of the International Charter on “Space and Major Disasters”. The use of satellite measurements dealing with the radioactive contamination in the atmosphere is also included in the issue.

The meeting was sponsored by COSPAR and co-sponsored by CNES, ISRO, IUGG, NASA, NOAA and

UNESCO. The Program Committee of this symposium consists of R.P. Singh (India) Main Scientific Organizer, Felix Kogan (India) Deputy Scientific Organizer and members were M. Buchroithner (Germany), D. Massonnet and R. Missotten (France).

Efforts made by Manfred Buchroithner (Germany), K.S. Cheng (Taiwan), Felix Kogan (USA), S. Mukai (Japan), V.H. Singhroy (Canada), D.L. Tang (Japan), Cees Van Westen (The Netherlands) and K.V.S. Badrinath, D.K. Chakraborty, Harish Chandra, Neera Chaturvedi, P.C.S. Devara, Sagnik Dey, R.M. Dwivedi, A.S. Jasrotia, A. Jayraman, P.C. Joshi, T.S. Kachhwaha, M.M. Kimothi, R. Krishan, K.K. Krishnamoorthy, A.V. Kulkarni, S.S. Kushwaha, B. Lohani, P.N. Mahajan, N.S. Mehta, K.K. Mohanty, M. Rajeevan, K.V. Ravindran, P.K. Champati Ray, K.S. Roy, P.S. Roy, B.K. Sapra, A.K. Saraf, Sudipta Sarkar (USA), P.V. Sathe, B. Singh, P. Singh, S.V. Singh, S. Subramanian, A.N. Swamy, R.K. Tiwari, from India in reviewing the papers included in this issue are gratefully acknowledged. Efforts of Harish Vishwakarma in the preparation of the final copies of the papers and all secretarial help is thankfully acknowledged.

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