

**From the Guest Editor**

The number of the incident disasters in terms of the frequency and type grows increasingly with the wide and sometimes unprecedented damages and casualty. Earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and landslides happen very frequent than the past and the news about the calamities caused by the above said disasters is not uncommon. As a result monitoring, awareness about the contingency of the incidence of the disasters, early warning and mitigation emerges as the important issues which needs efficient and reliable tools and precise methods. Geomatics which particularly employs space technologies effectively provides promising solutions for monitoring, early warning and mitigation of the variety of the disasters, enabling the decision makers, planners, relief and rescue teams and other service providers involved with the management, mitigation and control pro and post of the incidence of the disasters. While the available techniques prove the effectiveness of the geomatics and space technologies in monitoring, informed management and consequently mitigation of the disasters after their incidence, a considerable effort, time, energy and finance is also spent on the methods and ways of monitoring the precursors and phenomena that can possibly and potentially be led to the occurrence of the consequent specific phenomena which could be named a disaster/ disasters. Using the space remote sensing techniques particularly microwave remote sensing along with the global positioning systems and other relevant techniques are emerging as the effective tools in bridging the gaps for successful and efficient monitoring of the disasters and possibly their forecasting.

**Parviz Tarikhi** is a space science and technology senior expert in Iran majoring in radar remote sensing since 1994. He holds a PhD in physics focusing on microwave remote sensing. Currently he is involved with the Microwave Remote Sensing technology development and research at the Alborz Space Center (former Mahdasht Satellite Receiving Station). He has been involved with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS) since 2000, including as Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur in 2004-06 of the committee bureau. Since 2001 he has co-chaired Action Team number 1 of UNISPACE-III with the mission 'to develop a comprehensive worldwide environmental monitoring strategy'. From 2004-07 he led the Office for Specialized International Cooperation of the Iranian Space Agency. He is also a freelance journalist and technical writer. He has made in the meantime years of research and study on the developments and status of space science and technology with a particular focus on Iran.