Preface

Dear readers,

You will be surprised to see this Preface signed by three persons. Following his move to a challenging new role in the private sector, Dr. S. Ramani, who was the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal so far, has now passed the baton to Professor Subhash Bhatnagar. First, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Ramani for having shouldered this responsibility for many years. It is a difficult task to edit a Journal with such a vast scope as the one encompassed by information technology for development. Contributions to this theme can come from several academic disciplines such as computer science, management, economics, social sciences and information systems. The geographic scope covers the deployment of IT across hundreds of countries. Although sufficient development of a theoretical underpinning to the theme of IT and development has not taken place, a Journal like ours still needs to be able to contribute towards a better formal understanding of how information technology can be deployed for the betterment of society. We need to adapt frameworks, develop new frameworks and learn from success and failures in deploying IT. New definitions are needed to measure success and failure. Dr. Ramani has nurtured the Journal through its early growth and we are grateful to him for his efforts. Professor Bhatnagar is well placed to help the Journal mature further and be independent and self-reliant. The most important measure of the success of a Journal is the number of professionals who are willing to contribute articles and the efficiency with which these can be processed and published in a reasonable time frame. This will be the objective of the new Editorial Team.

Professor Bhatnagar has been working as a teacher, consultant and a researcher at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, which has a long history of multi-disciplinary research in the area of IT and development. He has been associated with the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) as well as with the Commonwealth Secretariat and with the work of other multilateral agencies in harnessing emerging information technologies for development in nearly forty countries. We hope to put together an Editorial Team that would have the experience and the commitment to enhance the quality, relevance and reach of the Journal. Mr. Henry Alamango, executive director of the Commonwealth Network of IT for Development (COMNET-IT) will be the Managing Editor under a new agreement between COMNET-IT and the Publishers, with the Commonwealth Secretariat's continued sponsorship. He is committed to promoting the Journal and enlarging its subscriber base. Ours is the only Journal focussing on IT and development and we know that there is a large community of professionals and academics in many countries with an interest in this topic. We look forward to engaging these resources in the development of this Journal.

Dr. S. Ramani   Prof. S. Bhatnagar   Mr. H. Alamango