

## FROM THE EDITOR.....

---



Structural engineering designs by our Engineers have always been safe and stable whereas many catastrophic building and other failures have been reported from all over the world. Notwithstanding issues on quality of materials and workmanship, the integrity exhibited by our structures constructed in the past several decades is a tribute to the strict adherence of the design Engineers to the adopted codes of practices, mainly from Britain. However, developed for the requirements of a country with harsher environmental conditions, weaker soils and different materials, our adopted codes of practice may not give us an optimum design where safety and economy are in balance. Though this has been a topic of contention for a substantial time now, little had been done in fine-tuning the codes to local conditions.

The significance of having the codes to depict local conditions was re-emphasised when European countries, including Britain, adopted unified codes of practice, where country annexures have been introduced to deal with the matter. Though we have taken cognizance of the implication conveyed by the philosophy of the Euro codes, adoption of such codes in general practice will need a substantial amount of time due to familiarisation, specification, contractual aspects and other related issues.

Since 'Engineering' in itself is invention and innovation, there should be continuous research and boldness on the part of our Engineers to evaluate and adopt new concepts in design through different paradigms. If this could be done without unthinking adherence to conventional practices and text book stipulations, we may definitely be able to come up with economical designs applicable to local conditions, without compromising structural integrity and safety. In the quest towards 'Greener' constructions utilizing scarce resources in our planet to optimum levels while servicing the population for generations to come, this should be the strategy adopted by our Engineers.

**Eng. (Prof.) T. M. Pallewatta, Int.PEng (SL), C.Eng, FIE(SL), FIAE(SL)**  
**Editor, 'ENGINEER', Journal of The Institution of Engineers.**