

PREFACE

The search for newer materials to meet the ever-increasing demands of human civilization will continue to remain with us as long as man seeks to conserve the earth's resources, and match new technological demands arising from inventions and new discoveries. These materials in their various forms are used to build, operate and maintain systems.

This volume of **Advanced Materials Research** titled **Advances in Materials and Systems Technologies** reports the latest developments in materials and systems research, especially in the areas of material substitution and technology adaptation, in a rather unfamiliar scientific setting: Africa – little known for scientific activities. The papers in this issue have been selected from those, representing about 50 percent, presented at the **2006 International Conference on Engineering Research and Development: *Impact on Industry*** held at the University of Benin, Nigeria.

We hope that while these papers will expose Research and Development opportunities in Africa which will encourage collaboration among researchers and links with the rest of the world, they will also promote core materials and systems research at the international level.

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Editor