Editorial

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Biographical notes: R. Praveen Kumar is a Professor at the Head-Biotechnology Department in Arunai Engineering College. His research areas include synthesis of value-added products, bioenergy from biomass and municipal-waste, purification-extraction of phytochemical compounds. He has published 52 papers, co-authored two books and three book chapters and done provisional registration for four patents. He was the chair for 1st, 2nd and 3rd International Conference on Bioenergy, Environment and Sustainable Technologies. He is a life-member in various professional societies such as BRSI, IICHE, IFIBiop, BigFin, ISTE, ISEES, EWBIndia. He is one of the Associate Editors in *International Journal of Energy Technology and Policy* and served as guest editor for special issues of various journals.

Rapid urbanisation around the world leads to the search for newer technologies in all fields to support survival for the humankind. On the other hand, advancement in science and engineering research should support these changes. Though there is tremendous growth in research, those ideas should be communicated and transformed to researchers in the same field which may help them to improve their knowledge. In this connection, the Department of Biotechnology of Arunai Engineering College, Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu, India has organised a two-day national conference, National Conference on Advances in Science and Engineering Research – HAPTEN2016 during 18 and 19 March 2016. Several papers were presented orally in the theme of this conference, among which the best papers were offered a chance to be published in the special issue of *International Journal of Materials and Product Technology* in the theme 'Advances in science and engineering research'. In total, 21 papers were finalised after peer review for publication. I would like to thank the authors and reviewers who helped to finish this task.