

**Polat Gülkan** is currently director of the Earthquake Engineering Research Center at the Department of Civil Engineering of Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey. Mr. Gülkan is an earthquake structural engineer, and has been active in many areas of global hazard mitigation from 1971. He has been a visiting research scholar at the Earthquake Engineering Research Center of University of California, Berkeley. Other professional appointments have included staff consultancy at Basler and Hofmann of Zürich, Switzerland and visiting professorship at Purdue University. He has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE) during 1996 - 2004, and was appointed for a four-year term as executive vice president of the same organization in 2004. He was also on the Board of Directors of Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) for the period 2005-2008. A registered professional civil engineer in California he has been involved through many projects and consultancies with the UN, World Bank, EU Commission, NATO, OECD, IAEA as well as commercial firms. His professional work has dealt also with earthquake hazard, culminating in the earthquake hazard zones map for Turkey that went into effect in 1966, spatial planning, urban hazard assessment, natural disaster insurance, structural intervention principles for buildings and nuclear safety. He is a graduate of METU (1966) and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1971).

Mr. Gülkan is currently Editor for *Earthquake Spectra*, a leading journal in the earthquake engineering field that is contained in the Core List of the Science Citation Index (SCI). He is serving on the Editorial Boards of *Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics*, *Engineering Structures*, *TÜBİTAK Turkish Journal of Engineering and Environmental Sciences* and *Advances in Civil Engineering*. He has done article reviews for *Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics*, *Journal of Seismology*, *Journal of Earthquake Engineering*, *Journal of Structural Engineering and Mechanics*, and *Journal of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering*.

Professor Gülkan has been awarded the NATO Science Prize in 2004 and the Science Award of the Scientific and Technological Research Authority (TÜBİTAK) in 2007, the highest medal of professional recognition of his country.

During the meeting of the National Delegates of the member countries in the International Association for Earthquake Engineering that convened during the 14<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Beijing, China during 12-17 October 2008 Mr. Gülkan has been elected to serve as the Association's President. He is currently serving his four-year term as IAEE President that will end in 2014.